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THE  
MONTHLY EPITOME,

For APRIL 1798.

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XXXV. *The Life of Catharine II. Empress of Russia.* An enlarged Translation from the French. 3 vols. 8vo. pp. 1449. 1l. 1s. Longman, Debrett.

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PLATES.

**PORTRAITS** of Peter III. and Catharine II.: ovals in one plate, engraved by Chapman.

Portraits of Stanislaus King of Poland; Paul Petrovitch Emperor of Russia; Princess Dashkoff; Prince Potemkin; Prince Orloff: ovals in one plate, engraved by Chapman.

Map of the Russian Empire.

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THE translator informs his readers that this publication is enlarged by considerably more than one half: the materials have been furnished by M. Storch, Baron von Sternberg, M. Bachmeister, M. Georgi, and M. Hupal: and in the affairs relative to Poland and Moldavia, he is indebted to that excellent work of our own country, the Annual Register.

## EXTRACTS.

## PROGRESS OF A RUSSIAN MERCHANT.

"THERE would be no exaggeration in affirming, that it would be difficult to point out a people that have more of the spirit of trade and mercantile industry than the Russians. Traffic is their darling pursuit: every common Russian, if he can but by any means save up a trifling sum of money, as it is very possible for him to do, by his frugal and poor way of living, tries to become a merchant. This career he usually begins as a *rajschik*, or seller of things about the streets; the profits arising from this ambulatory trade and his parsimony soon enable him to hire a *lavka*, or shop; where, by lending of small sums at large interest, by taking advantage of the course of exchange, and by employing little artifices of trade, he in a short time becomes a pretty substantial man. He now buys and builds houses and shops, which he either lets to others, or furnishes with goods himself, putting in persons to manage them for small wages; begins to launch out into an extensive trade, undertakes podriads, contracts with the crown, deliveries of merchandize, &c. The numerous instances of the rapid success of such people almost exceed description. By these methods, a Russian merchant, named Sava Yacovlef, who died not many years ago, from a hawker of fish about the streets became a capitalist of several millions. Many of these favourites of fortune are at first vassals, who obtain passes from their landlords, and with these stroll about the towns, in order to seek a better condition of life, as labourers, bricklayers, and carpenters, than they could hope to find at the plough-tail in the country. Some of them continue, after fortune has raised them, and even with great riches, still slaves; paying their lord, in proportion to their circumstances, an *obrok*, or yearly tribute. Among the people of this class at Peterburg are many who belong to count Sheremetof, the richest private man in Russia, and pay him annually for their pass a thousand and more rubles. It often happens that these merchants, when even in splendid circumstances, still retain their national habit and their long beard; and it is by no means rare to see them

driving along the streets of the residence, in this dress, in the most elegant carriages. From all this it is very remarkable, that extremely few Russian houses have succeeded in getting the foreign commission trade; a striking proof that there is *something* besides industry and parsimony requisite to mercantile credit, in which the Russians must hitherto have been deficient." P. 79.

## EARLY TRAITS OF CATHARINE II.

"THE princess Sophia, of whom we are now to speak, and whom fortune early called to act a part upon a higher stage than that of Zerbst, was born at Stettin, the 2d of May 1729; consequently four years after the death of Peter the Great, and two years after that of the first Catharine, and in the territory of Frederic, with whom she afterwards shared the renown of the present century. Her mother took the care of her education on herself. Burghers are still living in Stettin, who remember in their childhood to have played with the princess; for she was brought up in the simplest manner, and was called by her parents, in the common diminutive of her name, Fieke. Good-humour, intelligence, and spirit were even then the striking features of her character. Whatever was the play, she always took upon herself the principal part, and made her little companions know theirs, sometimes with the full emphasis of command. A lady of quality, who frequently saw her, describes her in the following manner: 'Her deportment from her earliest years was always remarkably good; she grew uncommonly handsome, and was a great girl for her years. Her countenance, without being beautiful, was very agreeable: to which the peculiar gaiety and friendliness which she ever displayed gave additional charms. Her education was conducted by her mother alone, who kept her strictly, and never suffered her to show the least symptoms of pride, to which she had some propensity; accustoming her from her earliest infancy, to salute the ladies of distinction, who came to visit the princess, with the marks of respect that became a child; an honour which my mother on all such occasions enjoyed, and which she was obliged

‘obliged never to omit, by the express command of the princels.’

“These days, which Sophia passed in easy seclusion, were always recollected by Catharine with pleasure. While arbitrary sovereign of the Russian empire, she still retained sentiments of affection for the place of her birth, and for several persons of her former acquaintance. She annually sent to the magistrate of Stettin the medals she caused to be struck in commemoration of the events of her reign, as well in gold as in silver. Shortly after her coming to the crown, she sent to the society of marksmen of the town a present of 1000 ducats. In her youth she had frequently attended the amusement of these burghers, and at times even shot at the mark. Soon after her arrival in Petersburg, she sent the lady who waited upon her, and gave her the first lessons in the French language, some beautiful furs; and to her writing-master, a sum of money. In the very late years of her life, she transmitted her picture, accompanied with the most flattering expressions of esteem, to a lady formerly her playmate. This lady, who has permitted herself to be named as the communicator of these anecdotes of the early life of Catharine, is the countess von Mellin, at Gartz. The particulars, though trifling in themselves, yet, as authentically relating to the illustrious subject of these memoirs, are of consequence enough to be inserted here.” P. 121.

#### EMPERESS ELIZABETH.

“THE easiness and indolence of Elizabeth’s character subjected her to the humours of favourites, who made a bad use of her authority. Her devotion often rendered her impious, and her clemency cruel. At the commencement of her reign she made a vow never to punish a malefactor with death: the judges, therefore, who could not decapitate criminals, deprived them of their lives by the barbarous punishment of the knout; and never were there more tongues cut out, and more wretches sent to Siberia, than under the reign of this princess, so unjustly extolled for her clemency.

“It is supposed that her government cost every year to the empire at least 1000 of her subjects by private

imprisonment, which, during the twenty years and upwards that she reigned, makes the number amount to above 20,000. Nothing was more easy than to obtain a secret order for this purpose by the flatterers of all ranks that swarmed about her person. It was sufficient for one of the maids of honour to think herself slighted, for getting an order to have a person taken out of bed in the night, carried away blindfolded, and gagged, and immured under ground, there to drag out the remainder of life in a solitary and loathsome dungeon, without ever being charged with any crime, or even knowing in what part of the country he was. On the disappearance of any such person from his family, from his relatives, from the circle of his acquaintance, it was highly dangerous to make any inquiries after him. ‘He has disappeared,’ was held a sufficient answer to questions of that nature. Many of these were known to be still miserably wearing out existence under the bastions and towers of Schlüsselburg and other fortresses, so lately as the winter of 1780, not to mention the exiles to Siberia. To all this it may be added, that her reign was never marked by a single act that could justify the revolution that placed on her head the crown of Russia. In a word, she was fitter to have vegetated in the sloth of a convent, than to be seated on the throne of one of the largest of the chief empires of the world.” P. 210.

#### PRELIMINARY SKETCH TO THE FOLLOWING EXTRACT.

AN open rupture ensuing between the Empress and her husband, Peter resolves to repudiate Catharine, to bastardize the Grand Duke, and declare Prince Ivan (dethroned by Elizabeth) his successor. Catharine and her party (Princess Dashkoff, Gregory Orloff, &c.), by their secret intrigues render Peter unpopular; and, by seducing the military, soon accomplish the Emperor’s overthrow.

#### PETER III. DETHRONED.

“THEY who plan a conspiracy have always more zeal, more vigilance and activity, than he against whom



whom it is directed. Accordingly the friends of Catharine were carefully informed of all that passed about the tzar, while he was ignorant of all their proceedings. Expecting, in indolent security, the festivities of Peterhoff, his majesty was gone to pass some days at his country palace of Oranienbaum, whither he had taken with him some of the handsomest women of the court. On this occasion a report was spread, that he wanted to demand divorces for these women, that he might marry them to some of his courtiers. It was even added, that beds had been ordered for these pretended nuptials; and shame, contempt, and jealousy, created him new enemies, and procured as many partisans to Catharine.

"Under pretext of leaving the apartments free for the festival that was to be celebrated at the palace, and for enabling herself, in reality, to be more in readiness to escape, Catharine was lodged in a remote summer-house, at the foot whereof runs a canal that communicates with the Neva, and where she had caused to be fastened, as if without design, a small boat, that it might occasionally be of service in the secret visits of her favourites, and to facilitate her own escape into Sweden, if the conspiracy should be discovered. Gregory Orloff having given his brother a key to this summer-house, instructed him in the methods he must employ for getting thither; and princeps Dashkoff trusted him with a short note, to engage the empress to come to them without loss of time.

"It was now two o'clock in the morning. The empress, not expecting any body, had retired to rest, and lay in a profound sleep, when she perceived herself suddenly roused, and saw standing at the side of her bed a soldier whom she knew nothing of. Without delivering her the note from princeps Dashkoff, the soldier said to Catharine:—"Your majesty has not a moment to lose; get ready to follow me!" and immediately disappeared.

"Catharine, astonished, terrified, called Ivanovna. They dressed themselves in haste, and disguised themselves in such manner that they could not be known by the sentinels about the palace. Scarcely were they ready, when the soldier returns, and tells the empress that a carriage is waiting for them at the garden-gate. It was a

coach which, under pretext of having change of horses for an excursion into the country, princeps Dashkoff had kept for several days in readiness at a house inhabited by one of her peasants a few miles from Peterhoff, and which Alexey Orloff had sent one of his comrades to fetch.

"The empress reached the carriage without difficulty. She got into it. Alexey Orloff took the reins, and set off at full speed. Suddenly the horses, being over-driven, stopped short, and fell down. They were obliged to get out. Alexey Orloff and his companion employed every effort to cheer the horses, but in vain. The distance from Petersburg was still considerable, in the midst of the night, in the greatest confusion, and the danger was every moment becoming more imminent: they resolved to proceed the rest of the way on foot. They had not gone far, when by good luck they met a light country cart. Alexey Orloff seized hold of the horses, the empress got in, and they set off again as before. They presently heard the sound of another carriage coming after them with unusual rapidity. It was Gregory Orloff, who, calculating the moments, was alarmed at not yet seeing the empress. Immediately knowing her, he cried out, that they only waited for her; and without staying for her answer, drove on before to receive her at Petersburg. At length, Catharine, worn out with fatigue and anxiety, but sufficiently mistress of herself to assume a sedate and tranquil air, arrived in the city at seven in the morning, the 9th of July 1762.

"She proceeded directly to the quarter of the Ismailoffsky guards, of which three companies had been already won over; but the conspirators would not permit them to leave the barracks till Catharine appeared, for fear of failing in their aim by too great precipitancy. At the report of the arrival of her majesty, about thirty of the soldiers, half dressed, ran out to receive her with clamorous shouts of joy. Surprised and alarmed at seeing so small a number of soldiers, she kept silence for a moment, and then told them, in a tremulous voice, 'that her danger had driven her to the necessity of coming to ask their assistance; that the tzar had intended to put her to death that very night, together with her son; that she had no other

‘other means than by flight of escaping death; and that she had so much confidence in their dispositions as to put herself entirely in their hands.’

All who heard her shuddered with indignation, and swore to die in her defence. Their example, and the hetman Razumoffsky their colonel, who was not long ere he appeared, soon collected other soldiers, led by curiosity, in great numbers about the empress, who with one consent declared her sovereign. The chaplain of the regiment of Ismailoff was immediately called, who, fetching a crucifix from the altar, received on it the oath of the troops. Some voices were heard in this tumultuous concourse, proclaiming Catharine regent; but these sounds were presently stifled by the threats of Orloff and the more numerous cries of ‘Long live the empress!’

“The Simeonovsky and the Préboginsky guards had already initiated those of Ismailoff. The officers, with the utmost docility, put themselves at the head of their companies, as though they had been engaged in the plot. Two alone, of the regiment of Préboginsky, had the boldness to counteract their soldiers: but they were suddenly arrested; and among those who had been gained over, there were only wanting the major Tschapeloff and the lieutenant Poushkin, whom the empress had sent orders to have put under arrest, observing with coldness that she had no further occasion for them.

“While the hetman Razumoffsky, prince Volkonsky, counts Bruce and Stroganoff, several other general officers, and princefs Dashkoff, remained about Catharine, and she was completely securing the three regiments of guards, Gregory Orloff ran to the regiment of artillery, to draw it into the revolt, and march it to the empress. But though he was treasurer of that corps, and well enough beloved of the soldiers, they unanimously refused to follow him, and insisted on seeing the orders of their general Villebois. That officer for some time seemed to be favourably regarded by Catharine, and thought that he was so still; but as she discerned in him a probity too austere to allow her to hope that he would take part in the conspiracy, she had never ventured to disclose it to him; and when one of the friends of Orloff

appeared, and told him that her majesty commanded him to come and join her at the barracks of the guards at the head of his regiment, he asked whether the emperor was dead. The friend of Orloff, without answering his question, repeated the order; and Villebois, in utter astonishment, went alone to the empress.

“Villebois, seeing Catharine surrounded by an immense crowd of people, found no difficulty in divining what it was she expected of him; but, still withheld by the fidelity he had sworn to the emperor, or by the danger to which he thought her majesty was exposing herself, he presumed to speak to her of the obstacles which yet remained for her to surmount; and added, that she ought to have foreseen them. She haughtily interrupted him; and replied, ‘that she had not sent for him to ask him what she ought to have foreseen, but to know how he intended to act.’

“‘To obey your majesty,’ returned Villebois in confusion; and went to put himself at the head of his regiment, and to deliver the arsenals to the friends of Catharine.

“So many advantages cost the empress no more than two hours. She saw herself already surrounded by 2000 warriors, and a great part of the inhabitants of Peterburg, who mechanically followed the motions of the soldiers, and were eager to applaud them.

“The hetman Razumoffsky advised her then to repair to the church of Kasan, where every thing was prepared for her reception. She accordingly set out, attended by her numerous suite. The windows and doors of all the houses were filled with spectators, who mingled their acclamations with the shouts of the soldiers. The archbishop of Novgorod, who, apparelled in his sacerdotal robes, and accompanied by a great number of priests, whose long beards and hoary heads gave them a venerable appearance, stood at the altar to receive her, set the imperial crown on her head, proclaimed her in a loud voice sovereign of all the Russias, by the name of Catharine the Second; and declared at the same time, the young grand duke Paul Petrovich her successor. A *Te Deum* was then chanted, accompanied with the shouts of the multitude.” P. 297.

PETER ATTEMPTS TO GAIN POSSESSION OF CRONSTADT.

"DURING the first hours of the insurrection, and in the measures that were primarily taken for ensuring its success, not one of the conspirators had bestowed a thought upon the port of Cronstadt. It was not even till afternoon that somebody, reflecting on the importance of that place, remarked the mistake they had committed in neglecting it so long. Admiral Taliezin made the offer to go and take possession of it. It was accepted. He embarked in his long-boat, expressly forbad his rowers to mention whence they came, and arrived at Cronstadt. General Devier, who kept on the look-out, as he expected every moment the emperor, ran forward to meet Taliezin, and artfully endeavoured to discover whether he was of Catharine's party; but Taliezin, more artful than he, pretended ignorance of the effects of the revolt; saying, that being at his country-house, and hearing a confused account of some disturbance that had happened at Peterf-burg, he was hurrying to get on board the fleet, whither his duty called him. Devier believed the story, and went his way. Taliezin immediately repaired to the quarter of the sailors, harangued them, told them of the success of the empress, that they could not do better than to declare for her, distributed among them brandy and money, and engaged them to follow him to arrest the commandant. Some soldiers joined themselves to the sailors. Devier was instantly thrown into prison, and Taliezin remained master, in the name of the empress, of a place, the possession whereof would have been the salvation of the tzar, or at least have furnished him with the means of making a stout resistance.

"Precisely while this scene was transacting, Peter presented himself before the mouth of the harbour. Taliezin had already made the dispositions for preventing his coming on shore. A part of the garrison, under arms, lined the coast. The cannons were levelled, the matches lighted, and at the moment when the foremost yacht cast anchor, the sentinel called out, 'Who comes there?'—'The emperor,' is answered from the yacht. 'There is no emperor,' replied the sentinel. Peter started forward; and, throwing back his cloak, to show the

badges of his order, exclaimed: 'What! do you not know me?'—'No,' ejaculated a thousand voices at once; 'we know of no emperor. Long live the empress Catharine!' Then Taliezin threatened to sink the yacht if he did not put off in an instant. Peter retired in great consternation: but Goudovitch took him by the arm; and, laying hold of one of the timbers at the entrance of the mole; 'Put your hands by the side of mine,' said he, 'and let us leap on shore. None will dare to fire upon you, and Cronstadt will still belong to your majesty.'

"Munich seconded the advice of Goudovitch; but in vain. In his dismay, Peter III. would consent to nothing but flight, and ran to hide himself in the cabin of the yacht, among the terrified women. They did not even give themselves time to raise the anchor; but cut the cable, and went off by the use of their oars." P. 321.

PARTICULARS OF THE DEATH OF PETER III.

"HE is generally thought to have been assassinated; and the manner of his assassination is related as follows:—A chief of the conspirators, accompanied by an officer, came to him with the news of his speedy deliverance, and asked permission to dine with him. According to the custom of that country, wine-glasses and brandy were brought previous to dinner; and while the officer amused the tzar with some trifling discourse, his chief filled the glasses, and poured a poisonous mixture into that he intended for the prince. The tzar, without any distrust, swallowed the potion: on which, he presently experienced the most cruel pains; and on his being offered a second glass, on pretence of its giving him relief, he refused it with reproaches on him that offered it.

"He called aloud for milk; but the two monsters offered him poison again, and pressed him to take it. A French valet-de-chambre, greatly attached to him, now ran in. Peter threw himself into his arms, saying in a faint tone of voice, 'It was not enough then to prevent me from reigning in Sweden, and to deprive me of the crown of Russia! I must also be put to death!'

"The valet-de-chambre presumed to intercede for his master; but the two miscreants forced this dangerous witness

witness out of the room, and continued their ill-treatment of the czar. A third person now came in, and joined the two former. One threw down upon his breast with both his knees, firmly gripping his throat with his hand. The unhappy monarch, now struggling with that strength which arises from despair, the two other assassins threw a napkin round his neck, and put an end to his life by suffocation." P. 341.

#### ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

"THAT prince had persevered, while in prison, in the pernicious habit of drinking to excess: the anxiety of his mind and the want of occupation led him to indulge it more than ever. Those who were placed over him\* often kept him company; they were young men. Dull and dispirited with this irksome kind of life, in a sort of banishment from their numerous acquaintance, wasting those hours which might elsewhere be more agreeably employed; this discontent was much more strongly marked in one of these young persons, namely Orloff. One day, after dinner, sitting alone with the emperor, both of them heated with the fumes of wine, one lamenting his absence from the pleasures of the city, the other complaining, more justly, of the loss of a crown; an altercation arose, the particulars whereof are uncertain and of little importance: but Orloff forgot himself so far as to lift his hand against the prince. Peter, though dethroned, could not submit to this outrage, and made an attack upon Orloff, who, still doubtful concerning the durability of a revolution, only, as yet, one week old, dreading the natural consequence of an unpardonable transport of passion, if Peter should find means of mounting again the throne of his ancestors, determined, in one moment, to put an end to his own suspense and the apprehen-

sions of the empress. The unbounded influence enjoyed by his brother, his absolute power, and, above all, the incredible attachment of her majesty for him, were infallible vouchers, not only for impunity, but for an obligation proportionate to the service he should render his sovereign, the importance of which he would not fail to acknowledge. All these reflections, previously made, without doubt, but which then recurred to his mind, acted on this young man with so much force, that he threw down the prince, and attempted to strangle him: though endowed with uncommon muscular strength, he could not effect his purpose alone: too far advanced to be able to retreat, he saw no other means of completing the business, than by calling to his help the two brothers, his companions; they came in; Orloff, still keeping his hold of the unhappy prince, explained to them the affair, as clearly as his present position would allow, and assured them of impunity. These, incited by his horrid example, combined their strength with that of Alexey, and the unfortunate Peter, after a long time contending with unequal force, at length expired under a heap of mattresses." P. 346.

(To be continued.)

XXXVI. *Memoirs of the Life and Administration of Sir Robert Walpole, Earl of Orford.* With original Correspondence and authentic Papers, never before published. By WILLIAM COXE, M.A. F.R.S. &c. 3 vol. 4to. pp. 2089. 3l. 15s. With Index to the Memoirs. Cadell and Davies.

#### PLATES.

*PORTRAIT of Sir Robert Walpole, from a painting in enamel by Zinck, engraved by M. Bovi, small oval.*

\* "Her majesty, from the very first, thought it necessary to commit so important a charge as that of the dethroned emperor, to the custody of persons in whom she could place the utmost confidence, and who were not liable to corruption, rather than to mercenaries, who are never proof against bribery. The three persons whom she deemed worthy of her confidence on so delicate an occasion, were count Alexius Orloff, brother of prince Gregory, and the two brothers Baratinsky, of whom one was marshal of the court, and the other was since envoy from Russia to the court of France. All the three were living in the year 1797."

Four

*Four plates of autography of several eminent persons mentioned in the work.*

SKETCH OF THE PREFACE.

THE plan of this work is to give an uninterrupted narrative of the life and administration of Sir Robert Walpole, illustrated by original correspondence and authentic papers. The memoirs, which are contained in the first volume, are divided into eight periods, comprehending a term of sixty-nine years, from his birth in 1676, to his death in 1745. The correspondence, which occupies the second and third volumes, is, for facility of reference, also divided into eight periods, applying to the subjects of the corresponding periods in the narrative. The authorities are derived from printed, oral, and manuscript information: viz. from Tindal's Continuation of Rapin, principally written by Dr. Birch; A critical History of the Administration of Sir Robert Walpole, collected chiefly from the Debates in Parliament, &c. 1743; Histoire du Ministère du Chevalier Walpole, devenu Ministre d'Angleterre, Amst. 1764, 3 vol.; the writings of Bolingbroke, Pulteney, and Chesterfield; Craffman; Political State of Great Britain; Historical Register; Annals of Europe; Gentleman's and London Magazines; and Chandler's Parliamentary Proceedings. — *Oral and manuscript information.* WALPOLE PAPERS, consisting of 140 folio volumes; containing the correspondence of Horatio, the first Lord Walpole, brother of Sir Robert, and ambassador in France and Holland: ORFORD PAPERS, consisting of letters and documents of importance; numerous anecdotes of Sir Robert Walpole, communicated by the late Earl of Orford. TOWNSHEND PAPERS, written by Charles, the second Viscount Townshend, plenipotentiary at the Hague, and principal secretary of State; consisting of letters to George I.; notes between him and George II. &c. Also the various correspondence of the following per-

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sonages with Sir Robert Walpole, &c.; Hon. Thomas Townshend; the first Earl of Waldegrave; first Earl of Harrington; the first Lord Grant-ham; Stephen Poyntz, Esq. confidential secretary of Lord Townshend; Benjamin Keene, Esq.; Archibald Duke of Argyle, and William Duke of Devonshire; papers of Rev. Henry Etough, rector of Hersfield, Hertfordshire, containing sketches of the reigns of William, Anne, George I. and II. and numerous accounts of Sir Robert Walpole; papers of Edward Weston, Esq. Under-Secretary of State, and Speaker Onslow; communications from Thomas Astle, Esq. keeper of the Tower records; papers of the first Earl of Stanhope, Lord Chancellor Middleton; Lord Melcombe, &c. &c.

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## EXTRACT.

## ACCOUNT OF THE SOUTH SEA INFATUATION.

“SOON after the appointment of Townshend and Walpole, the king departed for Hanover; having previously named a council of regency, composed of several high officers of state, contrary to the general expectation, which in consequence of the supposed union between the King and Prince of Wales, looked to him as regent in the absence of his father.

“At this crisis the general frenzy in favour of the South Sea speculation had risen to an enormous height. The compensation to the South Sea company, for the immediate payment of the 7,567,500*l.* seemingly for no value received, was to be drawn from the profits of their scheme. These profits were to arise from, 1. The exclusive advantages of the trade, which although precarious, and depending on a peace with Spain, were slated at no

less than 200,000*l.* a year. 2. The allowance for the charge of management, which was to be proportioned to the augmentation of their stock.

3. The difference of receiving 5 *per cent.* for the money expended in purchasing the public debts, when the usual interest was only 4 *per cent.*

4. The great addition to their wealth, from the constant rise in the price of the stock, in consequence of the artifices used to enhance its value; on which the whole success of the scheme depended.

“The company could not fulfil its engagements with government, and pay so large a sum as between seven and eight millions, without taking advantage of the general infatuation, and availing themselves of that spirit of pecuniary enterprise, which had seized the public mind. Imaginary advantages were accordingly held forth; groundless and mysterious reports were circulated concerning valuable acquisitions in the South Sea, and hidden treasures; dividends of 10, 30, and even 50 *per cent.* were voted, which the directors knew could never be paid, and for which there was no foundation.

“The promoters of the scheme highly exaggerated the profits; rumours were at the same time spread that the company, by monopolizing the fund of the whole national debt, would reduce government to the necessity of applying to them for loans, which would be advanced on their own terms; and it was even insinuated, that the proprietors would obtain, by the weight of their wealth, a majority in the House of Commons, and make and depose ministers. The public being intoxicated with these ideas, the stock, which, at the close of the books at Christmas 1719, was only at 12*s.*, rose, at the opening of the first subscription, on the 14th of April, to above 300*l.* the market-price being on that day 32*s.* in other words, the

“To these mysterious hints and fancied treasures, a ballad on the South Sea alluded:

- ‘What need have we of Indian wealth;
- ‘Or commerce with our neighbours?
- ‘Our constitution is in health,
- ‘And riches crown our labours.
- ‘Our South Sea ships have golden shrouds,
- ‘They bring us wealth, ’tis granted;
- ‘But lodge their treasure in the clouds,
- ‘To hide it till it’s wanted.’

creditors

creditors of the nation made over a debt of 100 for 33½ in South Sea stock. As the frenzy spread, and the desire of making rapid fortunes became contagious, the stock successively rose to above 1000 *per cent.* at which price the books were opened for the fourth subscription the 24th of August; and this subscription, though the market-price of the established stock was below 800, was sold the same day for a premium of 30 and 40 *per cent.*

"The sanguine cupidity, which marked this speculation, was not confined to the South Sea scheme: the whole nation became stock-jobbers and projectors: every day produced new proposals\*, some of apparent importance and utility, others so absurd and futile, that their success was matter of surprise, and almost exceeds credibility. So prevalent was this rage, amongst persons even of the highest rank, that the Prince of Wales was induced to become governor of the copper company. In vain Walpole and Compton endeavoured to dissuade him from this act of degradation, by representing that he subjected himself to a prosecution, that he would be reviled in parliament, and that the *Prince of Wales's bubble* would be hawked about in Change Alley. Their remonstrances had no effect, the Prince became governor, but afterwards, on receiving notice that a prosecution would be commenced against the company, withdrew his name, with a gain of 40,000*l.*

"These delusive projects received their first check from the power to which they owed their birth: the directors of the South Sea company, jealous of their success, and desirous to monopolize all the money of the speculators, obtained writs of *scire facias* against the conductors of bubbles, and thus put an end to them. But in opening the eyes of the deluded multitude, they took away the main prop of their own tottering edifice.

Suspicion once excited was not to be suppressed, and the public, no longer amused by pompous declarations, and promises of dividends, which they were convinced could never be realized, declined all farther purchases of stock, which fell in less than three weeks to 400, and those who had bought at large premiums were involved in distress and ruin. Amongst the numbers who suffered by these speculations, were not only persons of the first rank, but merchants and traders of every class, and bankers, who having advanced the monies committed to them on the subscription receipts, by their temporary stoppages augmented the general calamity.

"When the public distress was arrived to a most alarming height, and despair pervaded all ranks of people, to Walpole every eye was directed, as the only person capable of affording assistance, under the pressure of immediate necessity. When the aid of the Bank became necessary to preserve the South Sea company from ruin, he was called from the country, and importuned to use his interest with the governors, to persuade them to accept a proposal made by the South Sea company, to circulate a number of their bonds. At this awful moment the clamour of distress was irresistible, and the Bank, after great reluctance, arising from a natural dread of being involved in the same ruin which threatened the South Sea company, was at length induced to listen to the proposals. Walpole was present at several conferences between the committees of the two companies, and drew up, in the first conference, a minute, well known afterwards by the name of the Bank contract, specifying the agreement of the Bank, to circulate three millions of South Sea bonds for one year, on certain conditions, which were specified at a subsequent meeting. The report of his interference, and the intended aid to be given by the

\* "The reader will find near two hundred of these bubbles enumerated in Anderson's History of Commerce, vol. iii. p. 103. Amongst the most absurd may be mentioned, projects for transmuting quicksilver into a malleable and fine metal; for importing a number of large jack-asses from Spain, in order to propagate a large breed of mules; and for trading in human hair. But the most impudent and bare-faced delusion, was that of a man who advertised, that upon payment of two guineas, the subscribers should be entitled to a hundred pound share, in a project which would be disclosed in a month; the extreme folly of the public was such, that he received a thousand of these subscriptions in one day, and then went off."

Bank, occasioned a temporary rise in the South Sea stock; but the public was in such a state of terror and agitation, and so desperate was the situation of the South Sea company, that any community of interests between the two companies was considered as fatal to both. In consequence of this notion, such a demand was made on the Bank, that the governors refused to abide by the terms of their agreement; alleging, that it was deficient in legal validity.

"The critical state of the nation having rendered the immediate presence of the King necessary, he hastily quitted his German dominions, and landed at Margate, on the 9th of November. But his presence had not the desired effect. South Sea stock, which at the King's arrival was at 210, fell in a few days to 135. The public now looked with anxious expectation for the assembling of parliament, which was to meet on the 25th of November; yet such were the difficulties under which the ministry laboured, to form a proper scheme for remedying the national distress, which daily increased, that it was farther prorogued to the 8th of December.

"Nor is it a matter of wonder that the ministry were alarmed, and uncertain what measures to pursue. England had never experienced so total a destruction of credit, never was any country in so violent a paroxysm of dependency and terror. The South Sea company was considered as the sole cause of all the national misfortunes, the directors were indiscriminately loaded with execrations, and devoted by the public voice to condign punishment. Those who had promoted the scheme were involved in the same general detestation. The King, in addition to the odium of being a foreigner, and governed by foreign counsels, and of increasing his own dominions in Germany at the expense of England, was now most virulently reviled for having favoured the South Sea act. Well-founded suspicions were formed, that his German ministers and mistresses had received enormous largesses in stock to recommend and promote the project. Most of the principal ministers of the English cabinet, Townshend excepted, were accused of being implicated in the same scandalous traffic,

either by themselves or their relations, and had totally forfeited the public opinion.

"Idle reports were circulated, and believed, that Sunderland was endeavouring to prevail on the King to marry the Duchess of Kendal, with a view to diminish the influence of the Prince of Wales; and that he was following the example of his father with James the Second, in driving his master to such acts of unpopularity, as might cause a deposition, and establish a republic on the ruins of the throne. A general outcry prevailed, that the King and ministers had leagued with the South Sea company to dupe the nation, and that the remedy for these enormous evils would be more dangerous than the disorder itself.

"The public discontents were increased to so great a height, that some of his Hanoverian counsellors suggested the rashest measures. They advised the King to affect a resignation of the crown to the Prince of Wales, and insinuated, that William, his great predecessor, had surmounted the factions of the time by threatening to retire, and leave the country to its fate. As a last and desperate effort, he was recommended to apply to the army, to sound the officers, many of whom it was said had declared, that, rather than submit to the establishment of a commonwealth, or a popish competitor, they would assist to render the King absolute. Others were alarmed, and dreaded a misunderstanding between the King and the parliament; deprecated any attempt to apply to the army, opposed the resignation of the crown, by insinuating, that it was not the first time that a king of England had ruined himself by retiring, with the hope of quelling the fury of the populace; advised rather, that secret applications should be made to the Emperor, and the other allies, for troops, if necessary, to defend his person against any rebellious attempts.

"In this alarming crisis, the King was pensive and desponding, uncertain how to act, and by whom to be directed.

"Fortunately, in this moment of suspense and agitation, the public voice called forth Walpole, as the only man calculated to save the nation from impending destruction. In conjunction with Townshend, he stood at the head of a large party, highly respected for  
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their *tried* integrity; among whom the names of Cavendish and Ruffel were most conspicuous, who had uniformly acted with him; while the Dukes of Newcastle, Bolton, Grafton, and many other Whigs, who had united with Sunderland, were now ready to join his standard. He was attached to government by the office of paymaster of the forces; but as he had scarcely taken any part in public transactions, he did not share with administration the general odium. He had acquired great popularity by his uniform opposition to the South Sea act, and by having predicted the evils which were now most severely felt.

“Walpole now possessed the power, had he possessed the inclination, to ruin the South Sea company, the directors of which had treated him with many marks of contempt and obloquy, and to wreak his vengeance upon its principal contriver, Sunderland, who by his cabals in 1726, had driven him and Townshend from the helm of government. He was not ignorant that the Hanoverian junto were dissatisfied with Sunderland. The promises which he had made of obtaining the repeal of the incapacitating clause were not fulfilled; and when he was reproached for the breach of his word, he had excused himself by alleging, that Walpole, on whom he had relied for carrying the measure through the House of Commons, was no longer in administration. Walpole, therefore, was secure of their co-operation, if he had deigned to make overtures to them. He also well knew, that Sunderland had principally promoted the South Sea act, for the purpose of securing, by largesses of stock, a majority in both houses of parliament. He was aware that the minister had never cordially coalesced with him and Townshend, and that as soon as he had strengthened his party by their means, he had formed a resolution to obtain their dismissal.

“The affairs of the South Sea company were in so desperate a situation, the popular outcry against the directors so violent, and the general distress so urgent, that he did not want excuses for justifying a refusal to undertake this arduous business.

“But Walpole was not of a vindictive temper; he cheerfully sacrificed his own resentment, and though fully satisfied of Sunderland’s insidious and

overbearing character, came forward to assist in relieving his country from the general calamity. He was fully aware of the numerous embarrassments which opposed his success. To him was enjoined the difficult task of preserving the honour of the King, which seemed contaminated by the notorious avarice and venality of his German followers; of counteracting the unpopularity of the minister, by whose authority and influence the South Sea bill had been framed and carried; of satisfying the sufferers, who loudly appealed for indemnification, without detriment to the public; of drawing the difficult line between too much lenity and too much severity; of reconciling the people to the King, and of calming the discontents, which threatened tumults and insurrections. He did not, however, shrink from the trial; but engaged in the task with that ardour and assiduity which marked his character. After examining various proposals, which were submitted to his consideration, he adopted a plan for ingrafting a certain portion of the South Sea stock in the Bank and East India company; the first hint of which was suggested by Jacobite, under-secretary at war. Having amended the scheme in several instances, and prepared it for public deliberation, he referred it to the King in a letter, in which, after expressing his strong sense of the difficulties which he had to encounter, he declared, that he engaged in the undertaking solely in obedience to his Majesty’s command. The King and cabinet having ratified the scheme, and the monied part of the nation having sanctioned it with their approbation, he came prepared to submit it to parliament.

“The moment in which it was publicly known that Walpole, in conjunction with Townshend, was employed on a scheme for the reformation of public credit, a new spirit and resolution seemed to be infused into the nation. The country revived from its late despondency; and his ability for finance was so thoroughly appreciated, that a proposal which he made to the minister on the 19th of November, being agreed to, had such an instantaneous effect, as again to raise the stock from 125 to 200.

“On the meeting of parliament, Walpole had many difficulties to surmount before he could venture to lay  
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his plan before the House. One of the greatest arose from the zeal of those who were more remarkable for their integrity than their judgment, and whose indignation excited them to adopt such violent resolutions, as, without producing any essential benefit to the sufferers, would have occasioned a total destruction of public credit.

"This vindictive spirit displayed itself in the first debate which took place on the King's speech. Pulteney having moved for an address, assuring his Majesty that the commons would at this critical juncture proceed with all possible care, prudence, and temper, to inquire into the causes of those misfortunes, and apply the proper remedies for restoring and fixing public credit upon such solid foundations, as might effectually give ease and quiet to the minds of his Majesty's subjects; Shippen proposed an addition, after the words 'for restoring public credit,' 'as far as it is consistent with the honour of parliament, the interests of the nation, and the principles of justice.' This amendment was warmly seconded, and occasioned a violent debate; in the course of which the directors were stigmatised with every opprobrious appellation which language could suggest. Several of the members urged the most bitter invectives against the act for vesting too large powers in a set of men, whom they called miscreants, the scum of the people. Sir Joseph Jekyll hoped that all the directors were not equally culpable, but sure he was, that some who were not directors were highly criminal; and trusted that a British parliament would not want a vindictive power to punish great national crimes. Lord Moleworth owned, that there were no laws in being to punish the South Sea directors, but contended, that the example of the Romans ought to be followed, who, because their laws were defective, in not having provided a penalty for parricide, made one to punish the crime after it had been committed, and adjudged the guilty wretch to be sewed up in a sack and thrown alive into the Tyber. He concluded, 'that as he looked upon the contrivers and executors of the South Sea scheme as the parricides of their country, he should be satisfied to see them undergo the same fate.'

"In the height of this altercation, Walpole remarked, that it was im-

prudent to begin the sessions with irritating inquiries before they examined the cause; that if the city of London was on fire, all wise men would rush forwards to extinguish the flames, and prevent the spreading of the conflagration, before they inquired who were the incendiaries. In like manner, public credit having received a most dangerous wound, and being still in a bleeding condition, they ought to apply a speedy remedy; and afterwards they might inquire into the cause of the calamity. 'For my part,' he continued, 'I never approved the South Sea scheme, and am sensible it has done a great deal of mischief: but since it cannot be undone, it is the duty of all good men to assist in relieving it: with this view, I have already bestowed some thoughts on a proposal to restore public credit, which, in a proper time, I will submit to the wisdom of Parliament.' This mild exhortation calmed the House, and the amendment was negatived by a majority of 261 against 103. But although he carried his point at this time, yet on the next day, the temper of the House appearing more inclined to severity, he did not attempt to oppose the prevailing spirit; and an addition to the address, 'for punishing the authors of our present calamities,' being moved, was carried without a division.

"In these debates, it appeared, for the first time, that party had no concern; Whigs and Tories could not be distinguished by their votes. These partialities were suspended, and almost annihilated by various other passions, which produced numberless intrigues. Many of the commons were sincerely touched with the public calamities, or moved by their own private losses: others, dissatisfied with the ministry and court, were pleased to have an opportunity of covering their revenge with the specious pretence of justice and the public good: some had in view, by their loud and bitter complaints, to increase their own importance, or draw the attention of the opposite party; others, engaged in the secret practices of the South Sea, hoped, by an affected severity, to prevent suspicion. A few there were, who concealed, under the appearance of zeal and indignation, their devotion to some of the principal managers. The party hostile to the established



government took advantage of the public indignation, and excited the most violent clamours against those who, like Walpole, opposed extreme severity, and laboured to mitigate the spirit of revenge. Their views were directed to increase confusion and inflame discontent, with the hopes of procuring a majority of the disaffected in the new parliament, and by means of popular insurrections, to hasten the restoration of the Pretender, which they now looked up to as a certain event. Such were the views and temper of parties in the House of Commons, which Walpole had to encounter, and such was the spirit of discontent which he had to allay, before he could carry any scheme into execution; and yet it was in the midst of these discordant sentiments, and petulant opposition, that by means of consummate prudence and management, he gradually brought the House to reason and discretion.

"A committee was appointed, on the 9th of December, to take into consideration the state of public credit on the 15th, but on the 12th it was moved, that the directors should forthwith lay before the House, an account of all their proceedings: this motion being warmly seconded and supported, was opposed by Craggs, Lord Hinchinbroke, and the two Walpoles. The previous question being called for against this delay, Sir Richard Steele argued, that this nation, which two years ago possessed more weight and greater credit than any other nation in Europe, was reduced to its present distress by a few cyphering cits, a species of men of equal capacity, in all respects (that of cheating a deluded people only excepted), with those animals who saved the capitol, who were now to be screened by those of greater figure, for what reason they best knew, others were at liberty to judge. In reply to an argument against the question, that this vindictive justice so much contended for, would not be effectual, because it would be impracticable to procure a true account of the delinquents' estates, another urged that all the laws against bankrupts enacted into one against the directors (for so he should call them, as a word that conveyed more obloquy than any other expression) would, in his opinion, attain the end proposed. Horace Walpole, in speaking for the previous question, confessed that the South Sea

scheme was weak in its projection, villainous in its execution, and calamitous in its end; but that, in his opinion, they ought to begin with applying a remedy to the evil. Walpole himself did not attempt to make any defence of the directors; but said, 'that as he had already declared, he had passed some time upon a proposal for that purpose; he was, however, apprehensive, that if they went on in a warm, passionate way, the scheme might be rendered altogether impracticable: and therefore, he desired that the House would proceed regularly and calmly, lest by running precipitately into odious inquiries, they should exasperate the distemper to such a degree, as to render all remedies ineffectual.'

"In reply to this exhortation to mildness, Sir Joseph Jekyll enforced, with uncommon animation, the necessity of an immediate inquiry. He urged, that it was absurd to attempt a cure before they were acquainted with the disorder; and was convinced that the wisdom of the House would not want schemes to apply proper remedies. Walpole, finding that this speech had made a deep impression, did not insist on the previous question, and suffered the original motion to pass without a division. Several resolutions were accordingly carried, ordering the directors to deliver in an account of all their proceedings in relation to the execution of the South Sea act." P. 133.

CABALS OF THE DUCHESS OF KENDAL  
AND BOLINGBROKE TO REMOVE  
WALPOLE.

"AT this period, Walpole stood in the highest estimation with the king and nation; and his pacific sentiments were so well known, that all who desired the blessing of peace, wished for his continuance in office; yet rumours of a change in administration were believed and circulated; and a formal attempt was made by Bolingbroke, in co-operation with the Duchess of Kendal, to obtain his removal, and to substitute himself in his place. A full account of this intrigue, which has occasioned various conjectures and uncertain speculations, is here given from undoubted authorities.

"The Duchess of Kendal, who, by the death of Lady Darlington, remain-  
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ed without a rival in the confidence of the King, had, in consideration of 11,000*l.* assured Lord Bolingbroke that she would obtain his complete restoration; but having failed in effecting her promise, she threw the whole blame on Sir Robert Walpole, as the person who obstructed the King's designs in his favour; and though she was inclined to second all attempts for the purpose of obtaining his disgrace, yet many circumstances prevented her from exerting her influence in favour of Bolingbroke.

"She was become timid and cautious; fearful of distressing the mind of the King, who was declining in years and health, and easily depressed. She was unwilling to offend the ministers, who, besides the payment of a pension of 7,500*l.* from the exchequer, which it depended on their punctuality to discharge, secured her good-will by private presents, and supplied her with various means of gratifying her rapaciousness. She affected great concern for the interest of England, and sacrificed to her own tranquillity the concerns of the Hanoverian junto. Under these circumstances, it was no easy task to rouse her active exertions; but Bolingbroke paid assiduous court; his wife was no less constant in her attendance, and both anxiously watched for a favourable opportunity, which at length seemed to present itself.

"The eldest son of Sir Robert Walpole had been appointed ranger of Richmond Park, and the minister, while a new lodge was building, took a small tenement on Richmond Hill, where the King, after shooting, occasionally dined with him, and passed the afternoon drinking punch, of which he was excessively fond, in an easy and convivial manner. The Duchess, alarmed at this familiar intercourse, and anxious to render these visits less frequent, attempted, by means of some of her German friends, who were generally of the party, to break up the meeting sooner than the usual time of retiring; but their attempts having no effect, the Duchess listened to the overtures of Bolingbroke, who artfully fomented her jealousy against Sir Robert Walpole, and prevailed on her to second his efforts.

"He drew up a long memorial, full of invectives against the minister, which the Duchess of Kendal secretly delivered to the King. After stating

in various instances the misconduct of administration, he concluded, by requesting an audience, and undertook to demonstrate that the kingdom must inevitably be ruined, should Sir Robert Walpole continue at the head of the treasury. The King put this memorial into the hands of the minister, who concluded, that the person who conveyed it, could not be ignorant of its contents: after some inquiry, he traced it to the Duchess of Kendal, who, on being interrogated, acknowledged that she had delivered it, and attempted to justify her conduct by frivolous excuses. Walpole, in reply, only entreated her as a favour, to second the instances of Bolingbroke, and to procure for him that audience, which he so earnestly solicited. The Duchess, after several endeavours to excuse herself, promised compliance; and at a proper interval, Walpole besought the King to grant an audience to Bolingbroke; and urged the propriety, by observing, that if this request was rejected, much clamour would be raised against him for keeping the King to himself, and for permitting none to approach his person who might tell unwelcome truths.

"The King declined complying in so positive a manner, that Walpole could not venture to press it any farther in person; but waited on the Duchess to renew his application. He found Lady Bolingbroke on a visit, and when she retired, was informed, that the King was unwilling to admit Bolingbroke, on a supposition that it would make him uneasy. Walpole repeated his earnest entreaties, and declared that he could not be easy, until the audience was granted. These pressing solicitations finally had their effect; and Bolingbroke was admitted into the closet.

"While Walpole was attending in an adjoining apartment, Lord Letchmere came, and demanded admission for the signature of papers, which he had brought as chancellor of the duchy of Cornwall. He was informed that Bolingbroke was with the King, and that Walpole was also waiting. In the midst of his surprise, Bolingbroke coming out, Letchmere instantly rushed into the closet, and without making any apology, or entering upon his own business, burst out into the most violent invectives against Walpole, whom he reviled as not contented with doing mischief

mischievous himself, but had introduced one who was, if possible, worse than himself, to be his assistant. The King, delighted with this mistake, calmly asked him, if he would undertake the office of prime minister. Letchmere made no reply, but continued pouring forth his invectives, and finally departed without having offered any of the papers to sign. Walpole found the King so highly diverted and occupied with this incident, that it was some time before he had an opportunity of inquiring the subject of Bolingbroke's conversation. The King slightly answered, '*Bagalalles, bagalalles.*'

"Thus was this formidable attack defeated by the prudence and firmness of the minister; the King continued his confidential visits, and on his departure for Hanover, ordered him to have the lodge in Richmond Park finished against his return.

"Such is the account of this extraordinary transaction, given by Walpole himself; yet other reports have been circulated, which deserve consideration. Bolingbroke so confidently and repeatedly asserted, that on the King's return from Hanover, he should be appointed minister, that this opinion obtained belief, not only from his friends and partisans, but from others who were less inimical to the minister, and less desirous of his fall. Swift expresses his hopes on the subject, with his usual freedom, in a letter to Dr. Sheridan, May 13th, 1727; and Atterbury drew up a memorial to Cardinal Fleury, in which he treated the fall of the minister as a certain event. Pelham also told Speaker Onslow, that at this period Walpole was so convinced of Bolingbroke's intended elevation, as to have adopted the resolution of resigning and accepting a peerage, but was deterred by the remonstrances of the Duke of Devonshire, and the representations of the Princess of Wales, who dissuaded him from a step, which would incapacitate him for taking his accustomed lead in the House of Commons.

"On the other hand, Horace Walpole, Lady Walsingham, and the Duchess of Kendal herself, in a conversation with Sir Matthew Decker, asserted that the King did not intend

to dismiss Walpole. It is not difficult, however, to reconcile these contradictory reports. It was natural for Bolingbroke to propagate an opinion tending to exalt his own importance; it is probable that Walpole, in a peevish moment of dissatisfaction, might have expressed a resolution of retiring; and the whole account might possibly have received its greatest authority from Walpole's own declaration, that, knowing the venality of the Duchess of Kendal, her ascendancy over the King, and the influence of Bolingbroke over her, he was not without apprehensions that her efforts might have finally succeeded." P. 262.

#### AN ACCOUNT OF THE DEATH OF GEORGE I. AND ANECDOTES OF HIM.

"THE King departed for Hanover on the 3d of June; he enjoyed perfect health till he arrived at Delden. He was entertained by the Count de Twittel, at a country house about twenty miles from that town. The King ate some melons after supper, which probably caused the indigestion of which he died. He returned that evening to Delden, and set out early the next morning, after having breakfasted on a cup of chocolate. On his arrival at Bentheim, the King felt himself indisposed, but continued his journey in opposition to the repeated entreaties of his suite. His indisposition increased, and when he arrived at Ippenburg, he was quite lethargic; his hand fell down as if lifeless, and his tongue hung out of his mouth. He gave, however, signs of life, by continually crying out, as well as he could articulate, Osnabrug, Osnabrug. This impatience to reach Osnabrug induced the attendants not to stop at Ippenburg, but to hasten on, in hopes of arriving at that city before he died. But it was too late. The exact time and place of his death cannot be ascertained; but it is most probable, that he expired either as the carriage was ascending the hill near Ippenburg, or on the summit. On their arrival at the palace of his brother, the bishop of Osnabrug, he was immediately bled, but all attempts to recover him proved ineffectual." A

\* "For this account of the King's death, I am indebted to my friend Nathaniel Wrexall, Esquire, who obtained it from persons at Hanover and Osnabrug, who recollected the event."

courier had been dispatched to the Dukes of Kendal, who had remained at Delden, with the account of the King's dangerous situation; he met her on the road, about two miles on the other side of the Rhine; but as she was hastening on, another courier announced his death. She beat her breast, tore her hair, and gave signs of extreme grief; and then, dismissing the English ladies who accompanied her, took the road to Brunswic, where she continued three months\*.

"Lord Townshend, who was on his journey to Hanover, repaired instantly to Osnabrug, where he arrived on the 22d, early in the morning; but finding the King deceased, he wrote a letter of condolence and congratulation to the new sovereign, and taking post, pursued his journey to England.

"Before I conclude the reign of George the First, one remarkable fact must not be omitted: as the King could not readily speak English, nor Sir Robert Walpole French, the minister was obliged to deliver his sentiments in Latin; and as that was a language in which neither could converse with readiness and propriety, Walpole was frequently heard to say, that during the reign of the first George, he governed the kingdom by means of bad Latin. It is a matter of wonder, that, under such disadvantages, the King should take pleasure in transacting business with him, a circumstance which was principally owing to the method and perspicuity of his calculations, and to the extreme facility with which he arranged and explained the most abstruse and difficult combinations of finance." *P. 265.*

#### ANECDOTES OF PRINCESS SOPHIA AND COUNT KONIGSMARK.

"IT has been already observed, that George the First had, by a left-

handed marriage, espoused the Duchess of Kendal, at the time his real wife, the unfortunate Sophia Dorothy, was still alive. She was the only child of William Duke of Zell, by Eleanor d'Emiers, of the house of Olbreuse, in France; was born in 1666, and her hand was courted by the most powerful princes of Germany. His father Ernest Augustus had once designed him for the Princess Anne, afterwards Queen of England; he actually went to England to pay his addresses, and was well received and approved by the whole court. But he was recalled by his father, who had suddenly concluded a match for him with his cousin.

"Sophia, at the time of their marriage, was only sixteen years of age, and was a princess of great personal charms and mental endowments, yet her attractions did not retain the affections of her husband. After he had brought him a son and a daughter, he neglected his amiable consort, and attached himself to a favourite mistress.

"Such was the situation of Sophia, when Count Konigsmark †, a Swedish nobleman, arrived at Hanover. He was a man of good figure, and professed gallantry; had been formerly enamoured of Sophia at Zell, and was supposed to have made some impression on her heart. On the sight of her, his passion, which had been diminished by absence, broke out with increasing violence; he had the imprudence publicly to renew his attentions; and as George was absent at the army, he made his solicitations with redoubled ardour. Information of his attachment, and of his success, was conveyed to Ernest Augustus; and one evening, as the Count came out of her apartment, and was crossing a passage, he was put to death by persons placed to intercept him, in the presence of the Elector; and tradition still marks the spot where this murder was committed. Sophia was immediately put

\* "The Duchess of Kendal was sister of Frederic Achatius, Count of Schulenburg and Hedlen. Petronelle Melesina, the Countess of Walsingham, who afterwards married the Earl of Chesterfield, was supposed to be her daughter by George the First, though she was considered as her niece. The Duchess returned to England, and died at a very advanced age. She principally resided at Kendal House, near Twickenham, which was after her death converted into a tea-garden. Her immense property was divided amongst her German relations, and the Countess of Chesterfield."

† "Brother of Count Konigsmark, who was accused of having suborned assassins to murder Thomas Thynne, and of Countess Konigsmark, mistress of Augustus the Second of Poland."

under



under arrest; and though she solemnly protested her innocence, yet circumstances spoke strongly against her.

"George, who never loved his wife, gave implicit credit to the account of her infidelity, as related by his father; consented to her imprisonment, and obtained from the ecclesiastical consistory, a divorce, which was passed on the 28th of December 1694. And even her father, the Duke of Zell, who doated on his only daughter, does not seem to have entertained any doubts of her guilt, for he always continued upon the strictest terms of friendship with Ernest Augustus, and his son-in-law.

"The unfortunate Sophia was confined in the castle of Alden, situated on the small river Aller, in the duchy of Zell. She terminated her miserable existence, after a long captivity of thirty-two years, on the 13th of November 1726, in the sixty-first year of her age, only seven months before the death of George the First; and she was announced in the Gazette, under the title of the Electress Dowager of Hanover.

"During her whole confinement, she behaved with no less mildness than dignity; and on receiving the sacrament once every week, never omitted, on that awful occasion, making the most solemn asseverations, that she was not guilty of the crime laid to her charge. Subsequent circumstances have come to light, which appear to justify her memory; and reports are current at Hanover, that her character was basely defamed, and that she fell a sacrifice to the jealousy and perfidy of the Countess of Platen, favourite mistress of Ernest Augustus. Being enamoured of Count Königsmark, who slighted her overtures, jealousy took possession of her breast; she determined to sacrifice both the lover and the Princess to her vengeance, and circumstances favoured her design.

"The Prince was absent at the army; Ernest Augustus was a man of warm passions and violent temper, easily irritated, and, when irritated, incapable of control. Sophia herself had treated Count Königsmark with regard and attention, and the lover was hot-headed, self-sufficient, priding himself on his personal accomplishments, and accustomed to succeed in affairs of gallantry.

"Those who exculpate Sophia, assert

either that a common visit was construed into an act of criminality; or that the Countess of Platen, at a late hour, summoned Count Königsmark in the name of the Princess, though without her connivance; that on being introduced, Sophia was surprised at his intrusion; that on quitting the apartment, he was discovered by Ernest Augustus, whom the Countess had placed in the gallery, and was instantly assassinated by persons whom she had suborned for that purpose.

"It is impossible, at this distance of time, to discover and trace the circumstances of this mysterious transaction, on which no person at the court of Hanover durst at that time deliver his opinion; but the sudden murder of Count Königsmark may be urged as a corroboration of this statement, for had his guilt, and that of Sophia, been unequivocal, would he not have been arrested and brought to a trial for the purpose of proving their connection, and confronting him with the unfortunate Princess?

"Many persons of credit at Hanover have not scrupled, since the death of Ernest Augustus and George the First, to express their belief that the imputation cast on Sophia was false and unjust. It is also reported, that her husband having made an offer of reconciliation, she gave this noble and disdainful answer of haughty virtue, unconscious of stain: 'If what I am accused of is true, I am unworthy of his bed; and if my accusation is false, he is unworthy of me. I will not accept his offers.'

"George the Second, who doated on his mother, was fully convinced of her innocence. He once made an attempt to see her, and even crossed the Aller on horseback, opposite to the castle, but was prevented from having an interview with her by the Baron de Bulow, to whose care the Elector, her husband, had committed her. Had she survived his accession, he intended to restore her to liberty, and to acknowledge her as Queen dowager. Her memory was so dear to him, that he secretly kept her portrait in his possession; and the morning after the news of the death of George the First had reached London, Mrs. Howard observed (in the anti-chamber of the King's apartment) a picture of a woman in the electoral robes, which proved to be that of Sophia.



"George the Second told Queen Caroline, that in making some repairs in the palace of Hanover, the bones of Count Konigsmark were found under the floor of the anti-chamber which led to the apartment of Sophia. The Queen mentioned this fact to Sir Robert Walpole, and in various conversations which she held on this subject, she appeared fully convinced of her innocence; an opinion which the minister\* himself constantly adhered to." P. 267.

(To be continued.)

XXXVII. *A Tour in Switzerland; or, a View of the present State of the Governments and Manners of those Cantons: with comparative Sketches of the present State of Paris.* By HELEN MARIA WILLIAMS. 2 vol. 8vo. pp. 706. 12s. Robinsons.

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\* "The account of Sophia of Zell is derived from the MS. journal of N. W. Wraxall, Esq. Etough's Papers, and various communications which I received at Hanover, and Polnitz's Memoirs. A pretended history is published under the title of *Histoire secrete de la Duchesse d'Hanovre, Epouse de George Premier, Roi de la Grande Bretagne. Les malheurs de cette infortunee Princesse, sa prison au Chateau d'Ablen ou elle a fini ses jours; ses intelligences secretes avec le Comte de Konigsmark, assassiné à ce sujet*, which is a mere romance."

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EXTRACT.

SPIRIT OF COMMERCE IN FRANCE BEFORE AND SINCE THE REVOLUTION.

"IN France, a country so near Switzerland in its geographical situation, but so distant in the character and disposition of the people, things in this respect are managed better; and although the French are lately become in some sort also a nation of usurers and stock-jobbers, their mode of toiling for wealth, and their mode of spending it, are altogether different from the plodding usages of their neighbours.

"The revolution which destroyed monarchy in France, overthrew at the same time the empire of ancient prejudices and habits. Before that event,

vanity

vanity was the governing spring of French action, and the principal aim, and aliment of that vanity, was rank and titles. A trader only laboured to procure just money enough to purchase a charge of treasurer of France, or *secrétaire du roi*, and when thus honourably ennobled, considered it as beneath his dignity to continue any longer that commerce which had served as the step-ladder to his elevation.

"But the scene is now reversed. Nobility exists no longer, and opinions have undergone as great a revolution as titles and fortunes. The poor are enriched; the rich are impoverished; labour is become necessary; industry flourishes on the ruins of vanity; and, as the impetuous French are ever in extremes, their ancient disdain of mercantile occupations is succeeded by a sort of rage for commerce. To this new fury they are animated, not only by the call of necessity, but by the desire of enjoyment. This people, the ever ardent lovers of pleasure, pant to repair those moments of terror and desolation which were lost to their accustomed, their beloved gaieties. They seek amusement with new eagerness, and the dangers which they find attendant on a revolution, only serve to attach them more to the present moment, on the Epicurean principle of uncertainty respecting the future.

"Immense commercial resources are found in the fertility, the extent, the situation, and the wants of the French republic; but nothing can be more amusing than the various whimsical directions into which the active, restless genius of the people, have turned their present rage for traffic. All grasp at something strange, and something great; a new world seems opening to their view, and which all model after their own fashion. Every man has seized upon some profound discovery, some happy speculation, which will infallibly pour forth an ever-flowing stream of inexhaustible wealth. When one chimera fails, another swiftly springs up; all is 'bubble, bubble, toil and trouble;' spurred by hope, or goaded by want, every man mounts the hobby-horse of his imagination, and whips it up to some marvellous achievement.

"One citizen frames sables of paper more durable than brass or steel; another erects mills that scorn the aid of

fire, wind, or water; another extracts new chemical substances, which, when applied to commerce, are to produce riches beyond the visions of the alchemists. All announce that they have set their inventive talents upon the anvil, merely for the good of their country; and as the ideas which the revolution has awakened, have given every individual in France some floating notions of his own importance, every man, however ignorant or mistaken, boldly brings forward his infallible plan, insists upon his right of being heard by his fellow-citizens, and calls upon every capitalist to hasten to him with his funds, and calculate, if he can, the enormous mass of interest with which the wings of every moment will be loaded.

"Those who decline setting up as inventors, and enlightening the world by discoveries, although they refuse to travel through unknown tracts of commercial enterprise, at least engage in more beaten paths of gain. Throughout the wide extent of the republic, Gothic abbeys are transformed into manufactories, cloisters become workshops, chapels are converted into warehouses, the recesses of solitary superstition are invaded, and the hollow echoes of the long-resounding aisles, which were once only responsive to the solemn slow-breathed chant, now repeat the rude dissonance of the workman's tools. A strange confusion of images is excited in the mind by the present contemplation of these antique edifices, which imagination has been accustomed to appropriate to congenial inhabitants, pacing silently along their vaulted passages in floating garments, instead of which you now meet the bare-armed, brawny artificer, and all ideas of solemn stillness vanish amidst the rude gabble of his noisy brood. No doubt an artisan is far more useful than a monk, but he looks much less picturesque when placed beneath a ruined arch, and gazed at in perspective.

"While speculators in the country are converting abbeys into manufactories, speculators in Paris are perhaps, on a surer principle of calculation, transforming palaces into resorts of public amusement, so new, so various, and so Grecian in all their plans and designations, that to trace a slight sketch of them will require one of our whole following chapters.

"The

"The system of paper-money contributed to cherish the new spirit of speculation in France, by suffering the imagination to rove amidst ideal regions of visionary wealth. The most trifling purchase or transaction, at that period, had something in it of founding greatness; a pair of shoes cost a thousand livres, an ell of riband five hundred; and as the women in France have even more active spirits than the men, every lady who had fifty, or a hundred thousand livres in her pocket-book, considered herself as a sort of capitalist; and hearing incessantly from all parts, and in all directions, that commerce was the infallible road to wealth, immediately set up with those solid funds some species of trade. One lady provided herself with a cargo of pocket handkerchiefs, another with an assortment of shoes; some sold tallow-candles; some wax; some dealt in powder, and others in snuff; but all had their little traffic, all were animated by the same restless spirit of gain. This species of commerce, however, was of fleeting duration. Sterne has observed, that Frenchmen conceive better than they combine; still more justly may this observation be applied to the French women; who, when they became adventurers in the new world of traffic, exulted in the rapid augmentation of their wealth; and were astonished to find that the merchandise, which was to replace the stock, could no longer be purchased with the same capital; till at length they discovered, that their magnificent commercial profits were a sort of fairy-gold, which, when touched, turned to sand; and that it was not the merchandise which had increased in price, but the assignats that had diminished in value.

"A few of the most beautiful, and the most intriguing of the fair Parisians, became the agents and emissaries of their friends, lovers, or husbands, in the public offices; and the marine, the war, and the home-departments, were filled with female contractors and negotiators, who, for the most part, found that republican committees made no better defence than polished courts, against the formidable artillery of bright eyes, gay smiles, lively sallies, and animated graces; artillery which French women know better how to wield, than the women of any other country. Ministers and commissaries

felt the energy of arguments uttered by ruby lips, and the claims of a petition offered by a soft hand, of which the naked well-shaped arm was gracefully stretched out; and, upon the whole, the women of France, to whom, by the Constitutional Act, all rights have been denied, find that they still hold a tolerably despotic empire over their lords and masters, the sovereign people.

"Of a different class from these female negotiators and merchants, were those women, who, once possessed of all that rank and fortune could bestow, were now reduced to supply the pressing wants of the moment, by a melancholy species of traffic; by selling various pieces of ornamental needle-work, which they had once been taught to execute as an amusement, or by making a profession of those arts which they had once acquired as the accomplishments of an elegant education. Above all, drawing has proved an useful resource in these circumstances. Many a lady has found in her pencil, a means of subsistence for herself and family; many a finished landscape, destined to grace a crystal *boudoir*, or decorate a gilded pavillion, has served to furnish the fair artist with the crust of bread which, in some lonely garret, the moistens with her tears. What a long and mournful page of transitions the domestic annals of a revolution contain!"

*Vol. p. 17.*

#### AMUSEMENTS OF PARIS—DRESS, &c.

"IF the morning at Paris is devoted to business, the evening at least belongs to pleasure: over those hours she holds an undivided empire, but is worshipped at innumerable altars, and hailed by ever-varying rituals.

"During the last winter the amusements of twenty-four theatres, which were opened every night, were every night succeeded by public and private balls, in such numbers, that there were no less than two thousand ball-rooms inscribed on the registers of the police, which keeps its wakeful vigils over every sort of amusement, in all their gradations, from the bright blaze of waxen tapers which displays the charms of nymphs dressed *à la sauvage*, or *à la grec*, who grace the splendid ball *de Richieu*; to the oily lamp which lights up the seventh story,

flory, or the vaulted cellar, where the blind fiddler's animating scrape calls the sovereign people to the cotillon of wooden shoes.

"These two thousand ball-rooms of the capital afford ample proof that no revolution has taken place in the manners of the French, and that they are still a dancing nation. They have indeed of late fully demonstrated to the world that they are capable of greater things; and that when the energies of their souls are called forth, they can follow Buonaparte across the bridge of Lodi; but when their minds return to their natural position, every barrack has a room appropriated for dancing, and the heroes of Arcole, as well as the *muscadins* of Paris,

'All knit hands, and beat the ground  
'In a light fantastic round.'

"The fetes of the court, it is asserted by the few persons remaining in France, by whom they were frequented, were but tawdry splendour compared with the classical elegance which prevails at the fetes of our republican contractors. As a specimen of these private balls, I shall trace a short sketch of a dance lately given by one of the furnishers of stores for fleets and armies, in his spacious hotel, where all the furniture, in compliance with the present fashion at Paris, is antique; where all that is not Greek is Roman; where stately silken beds, massy sofas, worked tapestry, and gilt ornaments, are thrown aside as rude Gothic magnificence, and every couch resembles that of Pericles, every chair those of Cicero; where every wall is finished in arabesque, like the baths of Titus, and every table, upheld by Castors and Polluxes, is covered with Athenian vases and Etruscan vases; where that modern piece of furniture a clock is concealed beneath the classic bar of Phœbus, and the dancing hours; and every chimney-iron is supported by a sphinx, or a griffin. The drefs of his female visitors was in perfect harmony with the furniture of his hotel; for although the Parisian ladies are not suspected of any oblique attachment to Grecian modes of government, they are most rigid partisans of Grecian modes of drefs, adorned like the contemporaries of Aspasia—the loose light drapery, the naked arm, the bare bosom, the sandaled feet, the circling zone, the

golden chains, the twisting tresses, all display the most inflexible conformity to the laws of republican costume. The most fashionable hair-dresser of Paris, in order to accommodate himself to the classical taste of his fair customers, is provided with a variety of antique busts as models; and when he waits on a lady, inquires if she chuses to be drest that day *à la Cleopatre, la Dianne, or la Psyche*? Sometimes the changeable nymph is a vestal, sometimes a Venus; but the last rage has been the *Niobé*; of late fat and lean, gay and grave, old and young, have been all *à la Niobé*; and the many-curl'd periwig, thrown aside by the fashionable class, now decorates the heads of pretty shop-keepers.

"The fair Grecians being determined not to injure the contour of fine forms by superfluous incumbrances, no fashionable lady at Paris wears any pockets, and the inconvenience of being without is obviated by sticking her fan in her belt, sliding in a flat purse of morocco leather, only large enough to contain a few louis, at the side of her neck, and giving her snuff-box and her pocket-handkerchief to the care of the gentleman who attends her, and to whom she applies for them whenever she has occasion.

"For a short time during the winter, in defiance of frost and snow, the costume of a few reigning belles was not *à la grec*, but *à la sauvage*. To be drest *à la sauvage*, was to have all that part of the frame which was not left uncovered clad in a light drapery of flesh colour. The boddice, under which no linen was worn (shifts being an article of drefs long since rejected at Paris, both by the Greeks and the Savages), the boddice was made of knitted silk, clinging exactly to the shape, which is perfectly displayed; the petticoat was on one side twisted up by a light festoon; and the feet, which were either bare, or covered with a silk stocking of flesh colour, so woven as to draw upon the toes like a glove upon the fingers, were decorated with diamonds. These gentle savages, however, found themselves so rudely treated whenever they appeared, by the sovereign multitude, that at length the fashions of Otaheite were thrown aside, and Greece remains the standing order of the day.

"But to return to the contractor, and his ball—after several hours had past



part in dancing cotillons, which the young women of Paris perform with a degree of perfection—a light nymphish grace unseen elsewhere—and after the walse, which is now never forgotten at a Paris ball, had proved that the steady heads of Niobés were not to be made giddy, the company were led to a supper furnished with Eastern magnificence, and decorated with Arctic taste. After supper the folding doors of the saloon were thrown open to a garden of considerable extent, beautifully illuminated with coloured lamps, and its trees bending with lavish clusters of fruits of every season and every climate, formed of ice, while fountains poured forth streams of orgeat, lemonade, and liqueurs.

“But while these imitators of Greece and Rome are revelling in Asiatic luxury, you hear them lamenting most pathetically the subversion of the ancient regime; that regime, which would at least have had thus much of justice, that it would have retained these personages in the antichambers of the saloons they now occupy; to which antichambers they would with a counter-revolution most probably return. One is obliged to offer up an invocation to patience, when condemned to listen to their declamations against that new order of things to which solely they owe their elevation.

“There is indeed one class of persons, before whose complaints of the revolution, however bitter, the mind humbles itself in sympathetic sorrow. The poor *rentier*, while he sips his Spartan black-broth, which he is forced to procure by parting, in sad gradation, with all the relics of his former splendour, with watches, rings, furniture, and clothes: he indeed, if he complains, is to be pitied, and if he forbears complaint, is to be revered! But, alas! there is so much of tragical detail in the pages of the *great book*, a thing which has long since been called a great evil, that we must give it at least a whole chapter to itself.

“At present I shall only observe, that the reign of terror has acted upon this country like some mighty pestilence, which not only sweeps away devoted millions in its fury, but leaves an obnoxious taint upon every object where it has passed. The reign of terror has given a fatal wound to the energies of public spirit; ordinary minds have mistaken the execrable

abuses of liberty for an effect of the generous principle itself: the victims of revolutionary government have lifted up their complaining voice; all the emotions of sympathy, and all the feelings of indignation, have been called forth; and the partisans of the ancient regime have left no art unpractised, no seduction untried, to take advantage of those dispositions in favour of their own system.

“Those who have been too rapidly enriched by the revolution have endeavoured to hide the obscurity of their origin, by mimicking the tones of those who have titles and honours to regret, till aristocracy has descended so low, that it will soon perhaps be exploded, like any other fashion, when taken up by the vulgar. Many of the fair wives of titled emigrants, or blooming widows of murdered nobles, who have made such second marriages, that we might well apostrophize them in the language of Hamlet:

- ‘Such an act
- ‘That blurs the grace and blush of modesty,
- ‘Calls virtue hypocrite,
- ‘Makes marriage vows
- ‘As false as dicers’ oaths—’

These very ladies, who have taught their new-made liege-lords to ape their counter-revolutionary follies, will at length be ashamed of their aristocracy, when they find how successfully they are rivalled in those sentiments by their milliners and mantua-makers. A writer of a late political pamphlet has given an admirable reason why our Parisian belles will soon lay aside the tone of eternal lamentations for the overthrow of despotism: ‘Seven years,’ says he, ‘have already elapsed since the epocha of the revolution: seven years is a period of some length in the history of a youthful beauty, and a lady will soon not be able to regret the monarchy under the penalty of passing for old.’ I believe every person who has studied the female heart, will agree with this writer, that the republic has a tolerable chance upon this principle of obtaining ere long many fair profelytes.

“The fans, sparkling with spangled *fleurs de lys*, will then be broken; the rings, bearing the insignia of royalty, will be melted down; and the *portefeuilles*, and *bon-bonnieres*, with their

sliding lids displaying the forbidden images of regal greatness, will no longer be borne about in a sort of triumphal manner, not from a sentiment of sorrow, by those who, attendant on their persons, and basking in their smiles, are privileged to display more than that general regret for their unhappy destiny which humanity feels; but from a sensation of vanity by those, who perhaps never breathed the same atmosphere; never, even at awful distance, gazed upon the originals of those pictures which they now affect to cherish as the tender memorials of peculiar favour. These relics, we may venture to predict, will be offered up in one mighty sacrifice at the shrine of the republic, the moment it is well understood that to be a republican, is to be young.

"Public balls, as well as concerts, were held last winter at the *Theatre Français*, which, after having been long shut up, was repaired, embellished, and baptized by the Greek name of the *Odeon*; and that no jealousy might exist between the balls and concerts, on account of this classical nomenclature, the balls immediately received the appellation of *thiases*.

"But the most singular species of amusement which the last winter produced, were subscription-balls, entitled *des bals à la victime*. Such, and so powerful was the rage for pleasure, that a certain number of its votaries, who, during the tyranny of Robespierre, had lost their nearest relations on the scaffold, instituted, not days of such solemn, sad commemoration, as is dear to the superstition of tenderness, when, in melancholy procession, clad in sable, and wreathed with cypress, they might have knelt, a mourning multitude, around the spot where the mutilated bodies of their murdered parents had been thrown by the executioner; and bathed the sod with those bitter tears which filial affection, or agonized love, shed over the broken ties of nature, or of passion—not the commemorative rites which these mourners offered to the manes of their massacred relations, were festive balls! To these strange, unhallowed orgies, no one could be admitted who had not lost a father, a mother, a husband, a wife, a brother, or a sister, on the guillotine; but any person with a certificate of their execution in his pocket-book, not only obtained admission,

but might dance as long, and as merrily as heart could wish. Had Holbein been present at such a spectacle, no doubt he would have enriched his death-dance with new images, and led forward each gay nymph by an attendant headless spectre. The indignant cry of public opinion, however, was at length heard above the music of the waltz and the corillon; and the *bal à la victime* exists no longer to bear its powerful testimony to a depravation, not merely of manners, but of the heart.

"If in the winter, conformably to our Grecian ideas at Paris, concert-rooms became *Odeons*, and the Niobés and the Titus's danced in a *thiase*, summer can boast of more than equal honours; since then we never tread but on Attic ground, and never suffer ourselves to be pleased but when pleasure presents herself with a classical appellation. Witness ye gardens of Tivoli, ye bowers of Idalia, ye winding walks of Elysium, ye grottos of Venus, ye vales of Tempe, ye groves of Thessaly! witness with what fond alacrity the lovers of antiquity fly in multitudes to your enchanting recesses, where the arching trees are hung with innumerable lamps of varying colours, where the ear is exhilarated with the sounds of music, and the eye is cheered with the movements of the dance; and where every evening the hour of ten serves as a general signal, at which the whole city of Paris seems one vast theatre for the display of fireworks. A stranger who should enter this city at night by the bridge of Neuilly, might suppose that he had reached this scene of great events at some important epocha, which had occasioned a general rejoicing. On his right he would discern the lights of *Bagatelle*, beaming through the *Bois de Boulogne*, and would pass close to the brilliant entrance of Idalia; on his left he would be dazzled by the illuminations of the Elysium; while, as he advanced, he would discern, above every quarter of the town, the tall sky-rockets darting their vivid flash, and would hear in all directions the light explosions of enchanted palaces, with bright arcades and fairy columns;

'The crackling flames appear on high,  
'And driving sparkles dance along  
the sky.'

"*Bagatelle* alone, the once gay retreat

treat of the Comte d'Artois, is suffered, by our Grecian amateurs, to retain its old appellation in favour of the regal images which it brings to memory. What food for the ramblings of the mind along the paths of history, when it contrasts the light French graces of Bagatelle, with the massy, Gothic gloom of Holyrood House! It may be observed, that the persons who are for ever lamenting the subversion of the ancient regime, are not prevented by their regrets from giving all the encouragement in their power to those, who convert one palace after another into scenes of public amusement; and that they eagerly purchase for half a crown, the privilege of treading gaily every evening with the plebeian multitude, those magnificent gardens and sumptuous hotels, of which the possessors have, for the most part, as in former proscriptions, paid for their beautiful retreats at Alba, with their lives. But while these lovers of despotism forget their regrets in their pleasures, the philosophic mind wanders often in musing mood along these festive haunts, where the most singular combinations crowd upon reflection; and, amidst the glowing enthusiasm of liberty, mourns those partial evils that have clouded its brightness, and abhors those cruel abuses that have sullied its cause!

"When the multiplied engagements of the evening do not offer leisure for an excursion to Tivoli, or a trip to Idalia, the gay world at least find sufficient time in the interval between the play and the *petit souper*, to lounge for half an hour at one of the fashionable *glaciers*. A glacier is a sort of coffee-house, established in the fine hotels of emigrants, splendidly illuminated, open to persons of both sexes, and where you pay for your admission by eating ices, for which there is now so extraordinary a demand in Paris, that if the following winter should prove mild, the ice-purveyors will perhaps be forced to send to the department of Mont Blanc, in order to furnish themselves with means of supplying the enormous wants of their customers.

"But let me recall the images most dear to my imagination, by leaving for a while the glaciers of Paris, and the smoking-clubs of Basil, and wandering amidst the sublime landscapes of Switzerland. How delightful to bid adieu to every-day occurrences,

occupations, cares, and pleasures, for the contemplation of those scenes of solemn grandeur, which form such a contrast to the littleness of ordinary life! Let me turn my steps towards the first august object which struck my eye in Switzerland, the cataract of the Rhine at Schaffhausen, to which place I was obliged to travel by a long circuitous route to Zurich, since with French passports the Austrian territory was forbidden ground. A Balois told me before my departure, that the cataract of the Rhine was scarcely worth so much trouble; since, 'after all,' said he, 'it is but a fall of water!'" Vol. i. p. 23.

#### VISIT TO THE ABBOT OF ENGELBERG.

"THE rain had confined us for some hours at this town (Lucerne), and we were fearful that the increase of the torrents would prevent our expedition to Engelberg; but a gleam of sunshine invited us to proceed. After leaving Stantz, we passed along a delicious valley, thickly sown with cottages, hamlets, and farm-houses, agreeably shaded with fruit-trees. Five miles beyond Stantz the valley closes, and we ascended the mountain three leagues to Engelberg. Our path lay along a torrent stream overhung by forests of pine, and the scenery, without presenting the stupendous grandeur of the Alps, was rich in the usual wild and romantic appendages of Swiss mountains.

"Having attained the summit, we passed by a winding descent into a valley seated within a circle of lofty hills, covered with wood, or pasture; beyond which rise the majestic chain of mountains, whose tops are covered with perpetual snow. This valley, placed amidst a chaos of rocks and glaciers, is about two miles in length, and one in breadth; in the centre are situated the village and abbey of Engelberg. The latter is an edifice of fine construction, particularly the church, built in part with a kind of black marble, quarries of which are found in that country; this structure, displaying the elegance of art, forms a striking contrast to the surrounding defects of nature.

"We arrived too late in the evening to present our letters to the Abbot, and therefore took up our residence at

the inn of the village; where, though accustomed to mountain air and accommodation, we passed a night of piercing cold, arising probably from the recent fall of rain, which had thrown a veil of snow over the surrounding hills.

"Early the next morning the Abbot, who is a prince of the empire, sent his chancellor to invite us to repair to the monastery, where we accompanied him, and were introduced to a venerable-looking priest, who received us with the most cordial hospitality, kindly reproaching us for the late hour of our arrival, and lamenting, with the politeness of a man of the world, that I had been exposed to the inconveniences of the homely inn.

"As it was Sunday, the duties of the morning, he informed us, compelled him to remit his attentions towards us for a short time, which we might employ in viewing the library; this, however, we deferred, and accompanied the chancellor to a gallery in the church, which was crowded with villagers.

"In those elevated regions, beyond which no human creature can exist, and where nature itself seems to expire, the inhabitant of the distant mountain, and he that dwells in some remote glen of the valley, secluded by their situation from the world, and by their daily occupations from the society of each other, hail the return of the day set apart for religious observances, as a double festival, as a means of intercourse with earth, and with heaven. The pomp and ceremonial of the worship must also be peculiarly striking to the imagination of the peasant, who, confined to a nook of his native hill, has never formed any comparative ideas of splendour or magnificence; and the Abbot has rendered the solemnities of the service still more affecting by the charm of delightful music.

"Nothing could be more congenial to those finer emotions of the soul which rise into devotion, than the harmonious symphonies that thrilled upon the ear, while the lifted eye fixed itself upon the vast perspective sweep of

snow-covered Alps that form the stupendous horizon of the valley. In the foreground of this gigantic mass stands the bold impending mountain from which the monastery takes its name\*; and on which sublime orchestra, not unworthy of the celestial choir, angels are fabled to have tuned to their golden harps the auspicious hymn of its consecration.

"The Abbot is sovereign lord of Engelberg, under the protection of the four adjoining cantons. The number of his subjects, over whom he holds unlimited jurisdiction, amounts to about twelve hundred. The cares of his executive government devolve on four or five ministers and officers; and the judicial power is entrusted to four judges, whom he chooses out of twelve previously named by the people; these, with the ministers above-mentioned, form the civil and criminal tribunals of his state, which are held in a room of the abbey, and of which his chancellor is secretary.

"Such is the form of government in this community; not indeed composed in the newest style of political organization, but such as from the administration of the present sovereign, is felt as a blessing by all who live under its influence. This prelate, whom the united voice of his people stamps with the honourable name of father of his country, has rendered tribunals, civil and criminal, of little use, by cherishing in his subjects the spirit of equity and forbearance, and reconciling their differences himself. The good Abbot is not only the healer of divisions, but has introduced a system of wealth and comfort to the lower classes, by employing them in manufactures, which beguile the length, and counteract the severity of the savage winters.

"This prince is a considerable manufacturer himself, and carries on a very extensive commerce in cheese. The profits of his trade, and his other revenues, which amount to upwards of one hundred and thirty thousand livres, are expended in acts of beneficence and hospitality. Every wanderer has here his claims to protection allowed, and

\* "Engelberg, in the language of the country, signifies the mountain of angels. Whatever intercourse his predecessors might have had with these heavenly messengers, the prince, citing a line from an epistle of Horace, declared to one of my fellow-travellers his doubts respecting this celestial consecration."

every

every visitor finds a welcome. We sat down to table a numerous family, composed of French emigrant priests, the monks of the convent, and occasional visitors. The table was served with plenty and hospitality; and the chamois, the mountain venison, made a part of the repast; but what was most agreeable in the entertainment, was the frank and courteous demeanour of the venerable host.

"Among the treasures of the convent, the library holds a distinguished place; and is valuable not so much for the number of the volumes it contains, which do not amount to more than ten or twelve thousand, as the rarity and early date of the editions. The next valuable treasure of the Abbot was the dairy, or repository of cheeses; for we neither heard nor saw any thing of those miserable impositions on the faith and understanding, commonly called relics, which had been so often shown to us in catholic churches and convents, as objects of inestimable worth, compared with which, books, and even whole magazines of cheese, would weigh nothing in the balance. The Abbot, a man of sense and literature, as well as piety, has thought it better for the happiness of his flock to strengthen their understanding, and amend their lives, than to add to the stock of their prejudices and follies.

"We found the monks who formed his society, and the students who receive their education in the seminary, were lovers of the liberal arts. For the entertainment of the latter, the Abbot has converted a portion of the upper part of the convent into a theatre. It was not in a monastery, placed amidst the rocks and snows of Switzerland, that we should have expected to find assembled so many of the properties of Parnassus.

"I had almost forgot to mention, that the Abbot had a private treasure separate from the convent, which consisted in great varieties of artificial flowers, and other elegant works, which were stowed in boxes in his apartments. These were the performances of two emigrant nuns, to whom he had given an asylum in the monastery, and whom he rescued from the pains and penalties of idleness by this exercise of their talents. A part of these ornaments he reserves for presents to his female visitors, the rest are disposed

of at Lucerne for the profit of the artists.

"The mineral productions of the mountain constituted another part of his treasure; many of the specimens were rare and curious; as a female, the Abbot ought to have given me a nosegay of flowers, but, thinking probably the present more portable, he presented me with two very fine specimens of the purest rock-crystal.

"I should gladly have accepted the pressing invitation of the Abbot and his household, to pass some time at the monastery, but one of my fellow-travellers, who is now an envoy to a German court, and who was then on a private mission from the French government in Switzerland, had important engagements which compelled him to return. His presence, indeed, occasioned some little embarrassment to part of the society; the emigrants discovered him to be a Frenchman, but knew not in what class of emigrants he deserved to be ranked, while, every time he took a pinch of snuff, he was careful to slide hastily into his pocket the lid of his box, on which were painted the emblems of liberty, and the rights of man. French politics here, as below in the world, were the principal topics of conversation. The emigrants were loud in their invectives; but the Abbot observed that things were returning to order, and seemed more disposed to soothe the minds, and heal by gentle counsels and acts of beneficence the rankling wounds of his guests, than to animate them, like some of his brethren in Switzerland, to acts of desperation and revenge.

"I have dwelt so long on this mountain of Angels, that it is high time to descend to the world. As it was found impossible for my fellow-travellers to prolong their visit, the Abbot insisted that as my engagements were not so pressing, I should be left in hostage for their return. He promised me books, torrents, piny forests, snows, and glaciers in profusion, expeditions even towards Tetlis, which raised its snowy head above the valley in the class of the loftiest mountains; and the society of the two French nuns, who appeared interesting and amiable.

"I found it, indeed, a difficult task to struggle against my own wishes, and this kind and urgent invitation; but compounded at length with both, by con-



consenting to return to the celebration of the Abbot's festival, at some weeks distance, and stay as long as he would keep me.

"This engagement I was unable to fulfil; but if I ever return to Switzerland, it is not the danger of doubling the promontory on the lake of Lucerne, which never having passed without a storm, I have called the promontory of tempests, or the fatigues of the mountain-journey, that shall prevent me from climbing up to Engelberg, and paying my respects to its venerable Abbot." *Vol. ii. p. 94.*

XXXVIII. *Aristotle's Ethics and Politics.* (Concluded from p. 81.)

EXTRACTS

FROM THE POLITICS, BOOK III.  
CHAP. 3.

"A CITIZEN is, as it were, one of a ship's company, and a sharer with the rest in one common concern. Different sailors have different occupations. One steers the helm; another is boatwain; many ply the oars. The accurate and complete definition of each individual must, doubtless, express his particular employment and his appropriate duty. Yet one general definition is applicable to them all; since they are all alike concerned in promoting a prosperous navigation, and all alike interested in the safety of the common vessel. The republic is the vessel in which citizens are embarked; and the safety of the republic is, as we proved above, the safety of its form of government. To this the virtues of good citizens must always be relative; and as civil constitutions widely differ, the virtues necessary to preserve them must differ as widely. They are virtues not absolutely, but politically; and bear a reference to an end or purpose, independently of which they would not deserve even the name of virtue. But the virtues of a good man are ultimately desirable on their own account, as constituting in themselves the perfection and happiness of his rational and moral nature.

"In no country whatever have the greater part of mankind attained this

consummate excellence; but unless the majority in every country were politically virtuous, the commonwealth must soon perish, since its subsistence can only be maintained while each, or at least the greater part of its members, perform their proper offices, or, in other words, exercise their respective virtues; virtues as different from each other, as are the various exigencies of human life to which they are respectively adapted. Our comparison of the chorus is here strictly applicable. The office and the virtue of him who leads the band is altogether different from the office and the virtue of any other performer. But of the leader himself, of him who directs the chorus of state, what are the peculiar excellencies? When he executes his office aright, wisdom and goodness are with propriety ascribed to him. There is an education too, that befits men born to command, and them only; lessons of war and horsemanship are given to the sons of kings; and Euripides says, in the person of a young prince,

'Teach me not frivolous arts,  
'But teach me only how to serve my country.'

There is an education, therefore, becoming a prince, and there are men fit for receiving none other. Jason of Phere declared, without a figure of speech, that he was famished for want of empire. Power, it seems, was as necessary to Jason, as food to other men; and if he had not gained a crown, he must have ceased to live. This magnanimous Thessalian had learned, forsooth, only how to command, but a citizen must also learn how to obey; and it is justly observed, that, in the equality of free commonwealths, men must be disciplined by obedience, before they can be safely entrusted with authority. In proportion, therefore, as the form of government approximates political perfection, the virtues of a good man and of a good citizen will the more nearly coincide. In all such governments, prudence in the governors, and right opinion in the governed, are essential and peculiar requisites; other virtues are common to both, but variously modified by age, sex, office, and condition.\*" *P. 172.*

\* "I have transposed and compressed this passage, omitting some obscure clauses which are elsewhere more clearly expressed."

## EXTRACT FROM BOOK IV. CHAP. 17.

"THE nourishment of children is bountifully supplied by nature in the copious exuberance of milk, which the example of warlike nations, and even of wild animals, proves to be of all kinds of food the most congenial to the body, and the most favourable to its growth and strength. Wine, doubtless, gives spirits and vigour, but the use of wine in children might be productive of disease. All young animals delight in freely exerting their natural motions; and this instinctive propensity is equally strong and equally salutary to infants. Care, however, must be taken that their delicate members be not distorted through too eager a contention: in this view various mechanical contrivances have been invented, and proved by experience to be of important use. Infants should be early accustomed to bear cold; which will invigorate their strength, and gradually prepare their bodies for resisting the hardships of war. Some barbarous nations plunge their newborn infants into rivers. The Celts expose their children in thin coverings to the northern blast; and whatever is to be effected by custom, should be begun early, and carried on gradually. In the present case, the first experiments will not be attended with danger, for the natural heat of children fits them for surmounting the impressions of cold. Such are the attentions required by our first years.

"In the following age, and until children have completed their fifth year, no painful task should be imposed, and no violent exertion required from the mind or body, lest health might be injured, and growth obstructed. All that utility demands, is to keep their faculties awake, and to prevent them from contracting any habits of sloth; which will be best effected by such plays and sports as are neither illiberal, nor fatiguing, nor sedentary. The tales and fables which are told them, ought to be written, at least examined, by the magistrate who presides over education; and their playful amusements ought, in general, to be imitations of those serious transactions in which they will be concerned when called to the business of life. Laws and contrivances have been devised and framed for preventing those compressions of the breath, and those exertions of the

the voice, which are frequent with young children; but all such attempts to counteract the designs of nature, we totally disapprove. The contentions of the breath and spirits are known by experience to invigorate the exertions of men; and the crying of children, which occasions similar intentions and remissions of their organs, is equally salutary to them, promoting their growth and augmenting their strength.

"Until the age of seven complete, the school for children ought to be the father's house; but during this early period, they must be strictly guarded against the infectious communication of slaves; no illiberal gesture is to be presented to their sight; no illiberal image is to be suggested to their fancy. Lewd indecency of language ought to be reprobated and punished in every well-regulated city; for, from using filthy expressions without shame, there is an easy transition to the practising of filthy actions without disgust. Obscene statues or pictures are never to be seen but in the temples of those divinities, whom the law enjoins to be worshipped under such emblems, by fathers, in behalf of their wives and families; nor ought children to be spectators of comedy or farce, before the age of admission to the public tables, when education, if well directed, will have confirmed their morals. Theodorus, the celebrated tragic actor, made it a rule never to allow any player, how inferior soever might be his talents; to occupy the stage before him; observing, that mankind were always governed by first impressions. If that be the case, how much care should be taken to render the first impressions of children favourable to virtue, and to make them regard as strange and monstrous whatever might sow the seeds of malice, cruelty, or turpitude? Let them behold in their tender years those honourable occupations, and those martial exercises, which they are destined in due time carefully to learn, and skilfully to practise. Above all, let those important periods of life, preceding and following puberty, be the objects of most assiduous vigilance; but as this depends not entirely on age, we are less to regard the fanciful distinctions of numbers, than to watch the solid differences of nature; of which it is the sole business of education,

tion to second the views, and to supply the defects." P. 274.

XXXIX. *The History of London and its Environs.* Part IV. 4to. pp. 151. With Plates. 10s. 6d. Large Paper 1l. 1s. Containing Part of Middlesex, Surry, and Part of Kent. Stockdale.

#### LIST OF PLATES.

*VIEW of Greenwich Hospital.*  
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*London from Highgate.*  
*the Seat of E. Clarke, Esq.*  
*Friern House, the Seat of*  
*John Bacon, Esq.*  
*Map of Middlesex.*  
*Surry.*

#### EXTRACT.

##### CANONS, THE SEAT OF THE DUKE OF CHANDOS.

"IT is at Canons, in this parish (Stammore), that Mr. Brydges, afterwards Duke of Chandos, about the year 1712, erected a mansion of extraordinary magnificence. It was built entirely of stone, in the form of a large square, presenting one of its corners to the extremity of the grand avenue, in such a manner, that at a small distance the two visible sides appeared like a front of amazing extent. The profusion of busts, of statues, and marble ornaments of various kinds; of painted ceilings and staircases, and all the luxury of architecture; of vistas, lakes, canals, and terraces, consumed the enormous sum of 200,000*l.* James of Greenwich was the architect; and Dr. Alexander Blackwell, author of a treatise on agriculture, was director of the pleasure-grounds. In this palace the Duke resided with all the state and splendour of a sovereign prince. The want of taste, however, and vanity displayed in this vast undertaking, provoked a severe criticism from Pope in the fourth of his *Moral Essays*, under the description of Timon's villa, the concluding lines of which have proved to be singularly prophetic:

'Another age shall see the golden ear  
 Imbrown the slope, and nod on the  
 parterre;

'Deep harvests bury all his pride has  
 plann'd,  
 'And laughing Ceres reassume the  
 land.'

For, on the death of the duke, the mansion, being supposed to demand an establishment disproportionate to the income of his successor, after many fruitless endeavours to dispose of it entire, was pulled down and sold piecemeal. The equestrian statue of George I. was removed from the park to its present position in Leicester Square; and the grand staircase now adorns the house of the Earl of Chesterfield in May-fair. The present villa at Canons was built of part of the materials, by William Hallet, Esq. who purchased the park and demesne lands, and is now in the possession of Patrick O'Kelly, Esq. nephew of Denis O'Kelly, a character well known at Newmarket, and possessor of the famous horse Eclipse, whose remains are deposited in the park.

"The magnificence, however, of the Duke was not confined to his own mansion. He rebuilt about the year 1715, the parish church, and completed its internal ornaments in the year 1720. It was opened with great pomp on the 29th of August, for which occasion there is reason to suppose that Handel composed his sacred drama of *Esther*. The altar-piece is painted by Belluchi, the ceiling and walls by Laguerre. During the Duke's residence at Canons, the church was celebrated for the perfection of its vocal and instrumental harmony. The hymns were composed by Handel, who officiated at Canons as chapel-master, and the morning and evening services were set to music by Pepusch; at the same time, the celebrated Desaguliers was rector. This vanity of devotion has not escaped the notice of the eminent poet above-mentioned:

'And now the chapel's silver bell you  
 hear,  
 'That summons you to all the pride  
 of prayer:  
 'Light quirks of music, broken and  
 uneven,  
 'Make the soul dance upon a jig to  
 heaven.  
 'On painted ceilings you devoutly  
 stare,  
 'Where sprawl the saints of Verrio  
 and Laguerre,

'On

“On gilded clouds in fair expansion lie,  
 “And bring all Paradise before your  
 eye.  
 “To rest, the cushion and soft Dean  
 invite,  
 “Who never mentions hell to ears  
 polite.”

“and havoc her cannon made among  
 “them, called her the Golden Devil.”  
 P. 164.

“Over the family vault, at the  
 north end of the church, is a large  
 chamber paved with marble, and con-  
 taining several monuments of the  
 Brydges family, especially that of  
 James Duke of Chandos, of whom we  
 have been speaking.” P. 104.

SINGULAR CUSTOM AT WEST WICK-  
 HAM IN KENT.

“A SINGULAR custom prevails  
 in this place and its neighbourhood,  
 which seems worth recording. In  
 Rogation week, a troop of young men  
 run about the orchards, with a great  
 noise and tumult, hawling out these  
 lines:—

“Stand fast, root; bear well, top;  
 “God send us a joulng fop;  
 “Every twig, apple big,  
 “Every bough, apples enow.”

“For this they expect money or  
 liquor, or both; and if disappointed,  
 leave the place with a curse, expressed  
 in some such doggerel rhymes. The  
 meaning of the word *joulng* may puzzle  
 more profound antiquaries than  
 we profess to be. Haisted's idea, that  
 it comes from Eolus, god of the winds,  
 is ridiculous enough; there is much  
 more probably some affinity between  
 the *joulng* of the Kent youths, and  
 Ule or Jule games, so frequent in the  
 northern parts of this kingdom. Dr.  
 Hammond has an opinion that it comes  
 immediately from the Latin word *jubi-  
 lum*, which means a time of festivity;  
 which explanation may serve till some  
 one shall point out a better.” P. 178.

A SHIP OF WAR IN THE LAST  
 CENTURY.

“MANY of our largest ships of  
 war, from the time of Elizabeth to  
 the present period, have been built at  
 Woolwich; one in particular, called  
 after that sovereign, is mentioned by  
 Strype in his Annals. Another built  
 in 1637, is described with every cir-  
 cumstance of minute particularity by  
 Haywood the comedian. The fol-  
 lowing extract is curious enough to  
 deserve insertion:—“She was one  
 “thousand six hundred and thirty-seven  
 “tons burden, besides tonnage; one  
 “hundred and twenty-eight feet long,  
 “and forty-eight feet broad; from the  
 “fore end of the beak head to the  
 “after end of the stern, one hundred  
 “and fifty-two feet; from the bottom  
 “of the keel to the top of the lan-  
 “tern, seventy-six feet. She had five  
 “lanterns, of which the biggest would  
 “hold ten persons, standing upright;  
 “three flush-decks, a fore-castle, half-  
 “deck, quarter-deck, and round-  
 “house. The lower tier had sixty  
 “ports, the middle one thirty, the  
 “third twenty-six, the fore-castle twelve,  
 “half-deck fourteen, and as many  
 “more within, besides ten pieces of  
 “chase ordnance forward, and ten  
 “right aft, as well as many loop-holes  
 “in the cabin for muskets. She had  
 “also eleven anchors, one of which  
 “weighed four thousand four hundred  
 “pounds. This royal ship was curi-  
 “ously carved and gilt with gold;  
 “and the Dutch, from the slaughter

XI. *An Epistle to a Friend*, with  
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 a Villa described—Its Situation  
 —Its few Apartments, furnished with  
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 gravings from the Italian Masters—  
 The Dining-room—The Library—  
 A Cold Bath—An Ice House—A  
 Winter Walk—A Summer Walk—  
 The Invitation renewed—Conclusion.

“It is, however, to be observed, that this attack of Pope's upon a man  
 of amiable qualities, and to whom he had been personally obliged, was so ill  
 received by the public, that the bard made several attempts (though with little  
 success) to cause it to be believed that the Duke of Chandos was not alluded to  
 in the character of Timon.

To a Friend on his Marriage.  
A Farewell.  
To the Gnat.

## EXTRACTS.

## THE PREFACE.

"EVERY reader turns with pleasure to those passages of Horace and Boileau, which describe how they lived and where they dwelt; and which, being interspersed among their satirical writings, derive a secret and irresistible grace from the contrast, and are admirable examples of what in painting is termed repose.

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"His English Imitator thought and felt, perhaps, more correctly on the subject; and embellished his garden and grotto with great industry and success. But to these alone he solicits our notice. On the ornaments of his house he is silent; and appears to have reserved all the minuter touches of his pencil for the library, the chapel, and the banquetting-room of Timon. Nor could the Diable Boiteux have laid them open with more ability. *Le savoir de notre fielle, says Rousseau, tend beaucoup plus à détruire qu'à édifier. On censure d'un ton de maître; pour proposer, il en faut prendre un autre.*

"It is the design of this Epistle to illustrate the virtue of true taste; and to show how little she requires to secure not only the comforts, but even the elegancies of life. True taste is an excellent economist. She confines her choice to few objects, and delights in producing great effects by small means: while false taste is for ever fighting after the new and the rare; and reminds us in her works of the scholar of Apelles, who, not being able to paint his Helen beautiful, determined to make her fine.

## APPROACH TO A VILLA AND ITS SITUATION DESCRIBED.

"LET me, to claim a few unvalued hours,  
Point the green lane that leads through fern and flowers;  
The shelter'd gate that opens to my field,  
And the white front through mingling elms reveal'd.  
In vain, alas! a village-friend invites  
To simple comforts, and domestic rites,  
When the gay months of Carnival refuse  
Their annual round of glitter and perfume;  
When Bond Street hails thee to its splendid mart,  
Its hives of sweets, and cabinets of art;  
And, lo! majestic as thy manly song,  
Flows the full tide of human life along.

Still must my partial pencil love to dwell  
On the home-prospects of my hermit cell;  
The mossy pales that skirt the orchard-green,  
Here hid by shrub-wood, there by glimpses seen;  
And the brown pathway, that, with careless flow,  
Sinks, and is lost among the trees below.  
Still must it trace (the flattering tints forgive)  
Each fleeting charm that bids the landscape live.  
Oft o'er the mead, at pleasing distance, pass  
Browsing the hedge by fits the pan-nier'd ass;  
The idling shepherd-boy, with rude delight,  
Whistling his dog to mark the pebble's flight;  
And in her kerchief blue the cottage-maid,  
With brimming pitcher from the shadowy glade.  
Far to the south a mountain-vale retires,  
Rich in its groves, and glens, and village-spires;  
Its upland lawns, and cliffs with foliage hung,  
Its wizard-stream, nor nameless nor un-fung:

And,



And, through the various year, the  
various day,  
What scenes of glory burst, and melt  
away!" P. 10.

A CONTRAST.

"FAR from the joyless glare, the  
maddening strife,  
And all 'the dull impertinence of life,'  
These eyelids open to the rising ray,  
And close, when Nature bids, at close  
of day.  
Here, at the dawn, the kindling land-  
scape glows;  
There noon-day levees call from faint  
repose.  
Here the flush'd wave flings back the  
parting light;  
There glimmering lamps anticipate the  
night.  
When from his classic dreams the  
student steals\*,  
Amid the buzz of crowds, the whirl  
of wheels,  
To muse unnoticed, while around him  
press  
The meteor-forms of equipage and  
drefs;  
Alone, in wonder lost, he seems to  
stand  
A very stranger in his native land!  
Like those blest youths (forgive the  
fabling page) †  
Whose blameless life deceiv'd a twi-  
light age ‡,  
Spent in sweet slumbers; till the  
miner's spade  
Unclos'd the cavern, and the morning  
play'd.

Ah, what their strange surprise, their  
wild delight!  
New arts of life, new manners meet  
their sight!  
In a new world they wake, as from  
the dead;  
Yet doubt the trance dissolv'd, the  
vision fled!" P. 20.

TO THE GNAT.

"WHEN by the greenwood side, at  
summer eve,  
Poetic visions charm my closing eye;  
And fairy-scenes, that Fancy loves to  
weave,  
Shift to wild notes of sweetest min-  
strelsy;  
'Tis thine to range in busy quest of  
prey,  
Thy feathery antlers quivering with  
delight,  
Brush from my lids the hues of heav'n  
away,  
And all is solitude, and all is night!  
—Ah now thy barbed shaft, relentless  
fly,  
Unsheaths its terrors in the sultry air!  
No guardian sylph, in golden panoply,  
Lifts the broad shield, and points the  
sparkling spear.  
Now near and nearer rush thy whir-  
ring wings,  
Thy dragon-scales still wet with hu-  
man gore:  
Hark, thy shrill horn its fearful larum  
sings!  
—I wake in horror, and 'dare sleep  
no more!' P. 46.

- \* 'Ingenium, sibi quod vacuas desumisit Athenas,
- \* Et studiis annos septem dedit, insenuitque
- \* Libris et curis, statua taciturnus exit
- \* Plerumque—

HOR.

† "See the Legend of the Seven Sleepers, as translated from the Syriac by  
the care of Gregory of Tours."

GIBBON'S HIST. c. 33.

‡ —'fallentis semita vitæ.'

HOR.



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